

President's Message

Fall came to a sudden end and left many of us struggling to switch into winter mode. Those of us hoping to enjoy a few more outdoor activities, either recreational or field work, may be regretting we didn't get them done sooner. Regardless of the quick switch to a new season, a few important actions occurred this autumn.

- The Poweshiek skipperling and the Dakota skipper were listed under the Endangered Species Act by the Fish and Wildlife Service
- SD Game, Fish and Parks finalized the state Sage Grouse Management plan
- The Governor's pheasant habitat work group released its report of recommendations to enhance pheasant habitat in South Dakota
- Our Past President, Silka Kempema, was elected board member at-large for Central Mountain and Plains Section of TWS at the annual meeting in August

Winter reminds me of our annual meeting. It will be held at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma February 23-25, 2015. This year's theme will be "Environmental Contaminants: Threats to Wildlife". Our President-elect, John Kanta, is working diligently to put together a great program. You will find a call for abstracts later on in the newsletter. We will also be honoring our outstanding members with awards at the annual meeting. Please take a minute to think of a deserving nominee for one of SDTWS awards. There is a call for award nominations in the newsletter as well.

This past year I have sensed a positive change in the wildlife management arena. A greater focus has been placed on wildlife habitat in the public's eye. A long fought battle over a farm bill has ended with wildlife habitat-friendly policies added and new conservation programs being implemented. Many wildlife populations are closer to management goals across the state. We are far from having no issues to work on but much has been accomplished in the past year. Thank you for all of your efforts towards improving South Dakota's wildlife resources. Through our continued dedication to wildlife management, we will succeed at improving wildlife populations into the future.



Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!



Mark Norton – President
SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society

MEMBERSHIP

Know anyone who is a wildlife professional, who is in a field related to wildlife conservation, or anyone with an interest in South Dakota wildlife? Have you noticed co-workers or someone you know that has been missing at annual meetings?

Membership is \$10/year for a regular membership and \$6/year for students. You can renew a membership by using the membership form included at the end of this newsletter.

Please make your payment to SDTWS.

Life Members: The full list of members is available on the website.



SDTWS can now be found on Facebook!

SDTWS is now on Facebook! Facebook is a social networking website and it is free! If you are currently not signed up for Facebook, you can use the following link and it will direct you to a page to sign up. If you are already a member, the link below will take you the SDTWS Facebook page, where you can join the group!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=375605397459>

Facebook is a great way to share information. Facebook can be used to post events, such as the upcoming Outdoor Expo, and to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest. The SDTWS Facebook page is also another way that we can reach out to recruit more individuals in the wildlife conservation field in South Dakota. We are very excited about this new tool and we hope as members that you will benefit from it too!

SD Grassland Coalition New Listserve

SDSU Extension has recently created an email 'list serve' to better distribute information related to grassland management in South Dakota and the region. This service will allow for improved information sharing for seminars, trainings, speaker events, tours, educational articles, videos, etc. related to grasslands, grazing, and habitat. This information will be distributed directly to your email and will include links and attachments that you can easily click on to view the information.

This service WILL NOT replace the general communications you receive from TWS regarding members-only materials such as newsletters. Rather, it will be an opportunity for you to receive information from a larger group of organizations offering information on grasslands and education (SDSU, SDGC, SRM, NRCS, USFWS, TWS, and others).

Although the Board of the SD TWS see the value in this service, they feel the decision to have emails placed on the list serve should be up to individual members. **If you want to have your email added to the listserv, email Pete Bauman with SDSU directly and request to be added. peter.bauman@sdstate.edu**

Here is an example of what you'd receive in your inbox: Messages should be short and to the point.

From: sdgrassinfo

To: you

Subject: David Pratt workshop

Message: The SDGC will be hosting David Pratt seminar "The Other Side of Disaster" on Jan 15-16. Click here for more

info. http://www.sdgrass.org/uploads/1/8/6/5/18654664/the_other_side_of_disaster_flyer_12.15.13.pdf

CMPS Fall Newsletter

The current issue of Central Mountains and Plains Section newsletter is available on the SDTWS website or you can find it here . . .

<http://drupal.wildlife.org/CMP/Newsletters>



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY South Dakota Chapter



Call for Abstracts

Annual Meeting

23-25 February 2015

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota

Due: 19 December 2014

The South Dakota Chapter invites submission of contributed papers and posters concerning wildlife-related research and management. This year's annual meeting topic will be "Environmental Contaminants: Threats to Wildlife", however all wildlife related topics will be considered.

Presentations will be 15 minutes in length with 5 minutes for questions. In addition, a limited number of posters will be selected for display.

For both papers and posters, please provide an abstract that includes information on a project's background, objectives, methods, results, and interpretation in 300 words or less. Provide a title, author(s), and author affiliation. Indicate which author will be presenting and if presenter is pursuing a master's degree.

Submit abstracts in Microsoft Word as an email attachment to John Kanta john.kanta@state.sd.us Abstracts are due December 19th, 2014. Questions? Please contact John by email or at 605-394-2391.

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Be sure to make your room reservations at Cedar Shore in Oacoma by January 23rd, 2015 by calling 1-888-697-6363.

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

AWARD NOMINATIONS

To:	Federal and State Natural Resource Management Agency Personnel, NGOs
From:	Nathan Baker, Awards Committee SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Subject:	2015 WILDLIFE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD and CITIZEN'S WILDLIFE AWARD

The Awards Committee is currently soliciting award nominations for the 2015 Wildlife Professional of the Year and the Citizen's Wildlife Awards. Each year SDTWS recognizes one wildlife professional and one state citizen for their outstanding contributions in the arena of wildlife resource management. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these awards, please submit a letter of nomination to me no later than **December 19, 2014**.

Letters of nomination should include information on the nominee's personal, educational, and professional background; details regarding the individual's involvement in wildlife management projects and programs; and a description of other outstanding efforts worthy of recognition. If you have questions regarding formulation of nomination letters, please feel free to contact me.

This is a great opportunity to recognize those who go the extra mile in their stewardship of South Dakota's wildlife resources. So please submit your nominations via, mail or E-mail by December 19, 2014. Thanks!

SDTWS Awards Committee
SD Game, Fish, and Parks
20641 SD HWY 1806
Ft. Pierre, SD 57501

Office: (605) 223-7709
E-mail: Nathan.Baker@state.sd.us



2015 GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATORS PREPARATION OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The Wildlife Society is an international, non-profit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation and resource management. The society seeks to enhance scientific, technical, managerial and educational capabilities and achievements of wildlife professionals in conserving diversity, sustaining productivity, and ensuring the wise use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society.

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is offering one (1) Ph.D. scholarship in the amount of \$250.00 and one (1) Master of Science scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 for the 2014-2015 academic year.

1. This scholarship is available to candidates currently enrolled at a South Dakota College or University, majoring in a biological or allied discipline with a research or scholastic emphasis focused on, or related to, research or management of wildlife or its habitats.
 - a.) PhD scholarship candidates must have been enrolled in an accredited program and be in good academic standing with their respective university for at least one year prior to being eligible for nomination.
 - b.) MS scholarship candidates must have been enrolled in an accredited program and be in good academic standing with their respective university for at least one year prior to being eligible for nomination.
2. All scholarship nomination forms must be completed in entirety and signed by the nominator in order to be considered.
3. Completed forms should be mailed to:
SDTWS Scholarship Committee
c/o Nathan Baker
SD Game, Fish, and Parks
20641 SD HWY 1806
Ft. Pierre, SD 57501

The nominations can also be emailed to Nathan Baker at Nathan.Baker@state.sd.us. If you have any questions please call (605) 223-7709.

4. The South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Scholarship Selection Committee must receive all nomination forms on or before **December 19, 2014**. Unfortunately, nominations received after that date will not be considered.

NOMINATION FORM
2015 GRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

NOMINEE:

Name (First, MI, Last) _____
Address _____
School PH (____)_____ Home PH (____)_____
Email _____

NOMINATOR:

Name (First, MI, Last) _____
Title _____
Address _____
School PH (____)_____ Home PH (____)_____
Email _____

Ph.D. CANDIDATE M.S. CANDIDATE

ACADEMIC HISTORY:

University Currently Attending _____
Department in which Enrolled _____
Date of Enrollment ____/____/____ Expected Graduation Date ____/____/____
Title of Research Project (if applicable) _____

Previously Earned Degrees:

University Attended _____ Major _____
Dates of Attendance ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Research Project (if applicable) _____

University Attended _____ Major _____
Dates of Attendance ____/____/____ to ____/____/____
Research Project (if applicable) _____

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT: (Should include academic extra-curricular activities, professional society involvement, community service, publications, presentations, etc.)

For Selection Committee Use Only:

Date Received _____	TOTAL SCORE _____
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

Signature of Nominator: _____

Committee Reports

If a committee isn't listed here, it means there was no activity to report for this newsletter.

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

Endangered Species Listings and Related Rules

Dakota skipper and Poweshiek skipperling

Effective November 24, 2014, the Dakota skipper will be listed as a federal threatened species and the Poweshiek skipperling as a federal endangered species. The Dakota skipper is a rare occupant of remnant tallgrass prairie in northeastern South Dakota. The Poweshiek skipperling has not been documented in the state since 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also developed a 4(d) rule for the Dakota skipper. This rule identifies certain activities, such as routine livestock operations and mowing recreational trails, which would not constitute "take" of the species if that take is incidental to these legal, exempted practices. This opportunity is allowed for federal threatened species, but not federal endangered species.

Critical habitat has also been proposed for both species. Many sites that currently or recently hosted these species were proposed. Because presence of the species indicates the landowner or land manager has responsibly managed their grassland or pasture, the USFWS has encouraged those landowners to request an exclusion from the critical habitat designation if they believe they qualify.

Our Chapter commented on the critical habitat proposal, asking that the USFWS show the maximum amount of flexibility in considering critical habitat exclusion requests to reward the responsible stewardship of the affected landowners and land managers.

For more information on this issue from the USFWS, visit:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=I011>
<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=I0W1>

Northern long-eared bat

This species was proposed as federal endangered in October 2013. A second comment period ended in August 2014, but that comment period was recently extended to December 18, 2014. This species has suffered dramatic population declines in the eastern U.S. due to white-nose syndrome. The USFWS speculates that this disease will eventually spread throughout the range of this species, which includes South Dakota. Some forestry industry representatives have raised serious concerns about the potential impact of this listing on forestry practices. State agency members of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and state forestry personnel met recently in Minneapolis to develop a position and response letter that addressed threats to this species but within a context of responsible forestry activities.

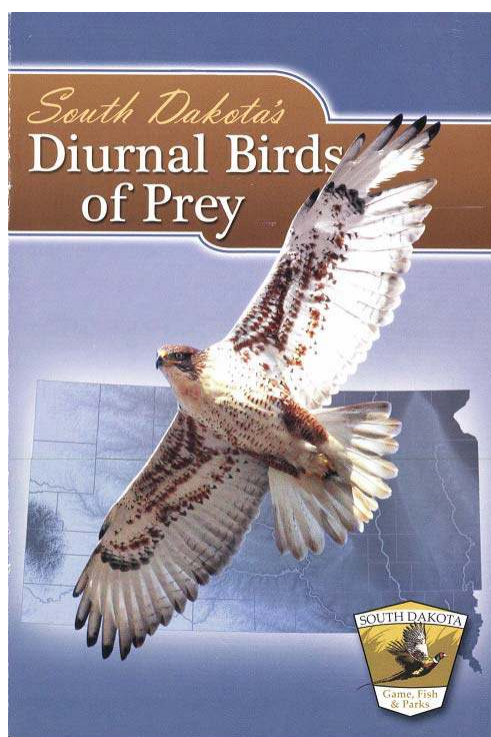
For more information on this topic from the USFWS, visit:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=A0JE>

New Identification Guide for South Dakota's Diurnal Raptors

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) recently produced a new color guide to raptors. "South Dakota's Diurnal Birds of Prey" includes color photos and descriptions of 19 species of hawks, falcons and eagles, plus 2 diurnal owl species. Eileen Dowd Stukel was the author, and the majority of the photos were taken by South Dakota photographer Doug Backlund. The guide was produced to help people better identify and appreciate these species.

To request your free copy, email Sandy.Hoerner@state.sd.us and include a complete mailing address. SDGFP asks that you request one copy per household. This publication was funded with SDGFP Wildlife Division funds.



Newsletter Submissions and Schedule

If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your email or mailing address has changed, send the information to: Charlene "Charlie" Bessken at ladyhawk155@hotmail.com or call 605-222-9445. Thanks.

The newsletter is published four times a year in February, June, September and December.

TWS Council Report

Gary C. White, Ex-Central Mountain and Plains Section Representative

TWS Council met October 24–25 at the 2014 annual TWS meeting in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This was my last Council meeting, as I'm term-limited after 2 3-year terms, plus I found that I was getting “burned-out” limited.

TWS Budget

As in past years, the budget was one of the main items of discussion for Council. I'm glad to say that the 2013 budget was in the BLACK, to the tune of \$76,941 compared to \$195,508 in the red in 2012. TWS is back on the road to financial health. The projection for 2014 is well into the black. Executive Director Williams has done a fantastic job of bringing TWS through this crisis. He didn't take the Executive Director's job to become an accounting specialist, but that is what he had to do and has done.

Federal Employees Participation in TWS

I've been telling folks at the chapter meetings I attended last year that this problem was fixed. Turns out that the problem may be fixed at the top level of the agencies, but the change has not worked down to the ethics officers that most of you have to respond to. Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships, had this item on the list of priorities for 2015. So if you encounter problems, let her know, and be persistent. You ARE allowed to serve TWS, so don't take NO for an answer.

Leadership Institute

We had another first this year with the Leadership Institute – 2 people from Utah were part of the class of 11—the first LI members for Utah. Congratulations to David Dahlgren, Extension Associate, Utah State University, and Michel Kohl, Research Associate/Doctoral Student, Utah State University, for stepping up. The Leadership Institute has contributed greatly to the CMPS – many of our current and past chapter board members and officers have been graduates of the Leadership Institute. I'm sure you see Dave and Mike stepping forward as well.

Make sure to get several folks nominated for 2015. Pick out some of the up and coming stars. The deadline is February 15, but it never hurts to be early.

TWS Strategic Plan

Council “suffered” through a 2-day session in Milwaukee last year prior to the regular Council meeting to develop a new 5-year Strategic Plan for TWS. During the past year, you've all had a chance to comment on the draft, and Council approved the final version in Pittsburg, which will soon to be available on the TWS web site. The plan builds on and captures the key strategic thrusts identified in the Council retreat, including:

- A sustainability theme, focusing on the TWS bequest and legacy to future generations
- A TWS leadership theme, focusing on the positioning and connectivity of TWS in the conservation community
- A member services theme, emphasizing the value of the services and benefits TWS provides to its

members

- An integration and networking theme promoting effective integration and connections among the chapters and sections and working groups and TWS international
- A business theme mandating and promoting the comprehensive use of good business management throughout TWS

In its retreat last fall the Council emphasized these themes as encompassing critical elements of our vision for the Society, at the level of the chapter, section, working group, and headquarters. The Council has also emphasized the importance of implementation as well as vision, so the plan also includes an implementation process involving the development each year of annual operational plans that focus on programmatic areas and measureable goals and actions to be undertaken that year.

Connecting Chapters to the Parent Society

One of the biggest issues facing TWS is connecting the chapters with the parent society. The handwriting is on the wall with the parent society losing ~7% of its members each of the last 2 years. You've all heard me say that about 50% of your state chapter members are not members of the parent society. The lack of a unified membership structure is the root of the issue, but that issue is not fixable at this time.

Rather, the parent society needs to provide benefits that all state chapter members desire, and hence are anxious to join the parent society. One of these initiatives is the Conservation Affairs Network, but this effort is just getting off the ground. Thus, there needs to be some selling done – some face-to-face contact. A meeting of the Conservation Affairs Network folks was held in Pittsburg, but I recognize that many of the chapter officers in the CMP Section are not able to attend national meetings.

I reported above that the TWS budget is back in the black, but part of the reason is the drastic curtailment of travel by staff. So I'm throwing out an idea to the chapters. Fund more travel! Ask for donors to fund travel. Ask TWS staff to attend your state chapter meetings next year, and provide funds to make it happen. All the state chapters in the Section possess healthy budgets. To help your chapter invest in the Conservation Affairs Network, invite and fund Keith Norris (keith.norris@wildlife.org), Assistant Director of Government Affairs & Partnerships, to attend your next chapter meeting. Likewise, fund one or more of your chapter officers to attend the national meeting next year in Winnipeg.

The linkage between TWS chapters and the parent society must improve, so let's hear some more ideas on this topic. The decline in membership must be turned around.

New CMPS Fellow

Jane Austin, North Dakota, is the newest TWS Fellow from the Section. Congratulations to Jane. Dr. Austin has been a leader in the North Dakota Chapter of TWS, and certainly provided a role model for young women in this Chapter. Her TWS activities extend beyond North Dakota. She has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1978 and a member of NDCTWS and the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS since 1989.

- The Wildlife Society (TWS), 1978–present

- Chair, Caesar Kleberg Research Award for Excellence in Applied Research Committee, 2013
- Support of Symposia and Conferences Committee, 1996, Chair 1997
- Publication Awards Committee, 2001;
- Program Committee and Workshop Subcommittee for 2002 Annual Conference
- North Dakota Chapter TWS, 1989–present
 - President-Elect / President / Past President, 2009–2012
- Midwest Regional Chapter TWS, 1983–1988
- Central Mountains and Plains Section TWS, 1989–present

I'm Finished, but not Done!

As I said above, I've finished my second 3-year term on Council. Getting to know many of you or staying in touch with old friends while attending the chapter meetings over the last 6 years has been the highlight of being on Council (meaning that sitting through 2 2-day Council meetings each year is a lowlight). The strength of TWS is the chapters. Keep up the good work. Stay in touch.

New CMPS Council Representative

Bob Lanka, Wyoming, is now your Council representative. Bob is motivated and excited – and will do an incredible job the next 3 years. He is a Past-President of the CMP Section, and already knows many of you.

His contact info is:

Bob Lanka, Certified Wildlife Biologist®
 Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Management
 Supervisor
 Wyoming Game and Fish Department
 5400 Bishop Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82006
 (307) 777-4580
 (307) 777-4650 fax
bob.lanka@wyo.gov



Next TWS Annual Conference

The 22nd Annual Conference is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 17-21, 2015. More details about the conference will be available on the TWS website by December 1, 2014.

The 2016 Annual Conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Mark Norton
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3096

Past-President

Silka Kempema
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57350
(605) 773-2742

President-Elect

John Kanta
SD Game, Fish & Parks
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 394-2391

Secretary-Treasurer

Troy Grovenburg
SDSU, Dept Natural Resource Mgmt
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

Board Member

Lee Erickson
NRCS Sturgis Field Office
2202 West Main
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-4952 ext 3

Board Member

Casey Heimerl
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative: Rocco Murano, 353-7185

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committee Chairs*

Audit – Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Awards - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408, Nathan Baker 223-7709

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194

Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521

Membership – Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408

Program – John Kanta, 394-2391

Nominations and Elections – John Kanta, 394-2391

Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committee Chairs*

Arrangements – Silka Kempema, 773-2742 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

Certification - Vacant

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

Energy - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709

Fund Raising – Casey Heimerl, 773-4345

Grassland Issues - Lee Erickson, 347-4952

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker, 223-7709

Newsletter/Website - Charlene “Charlie” Bessken, 222-9445

Public Lands -, Dennis Mann, 939-8156, Eddie Childers, 433-5263

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, 226-7621

Wetlands - Ben Bigalke 352-1203

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786

Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Down Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Workshop – Travis Runia, 353-8477 & Casey Heimerl, 773-4345

*Please see the Committees webpage to find the list of Committee members and email contact information.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Application for Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (indicate home or work) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletter delivery) _____

Please Note:

SDTWS's newsletter, *A Prairie Voice*, is all-electronic. Therefore, an e-mail address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an email address).

Please Check One: _____ New Member* _____ 2015 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2014, you will be considered a new member as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Troy Grovenburg
South Dakota State University
Dept Natural Resource Management
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues (\$10 x 25 = \$250)

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues (\$10 x 20 = \$200)

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 17.5 = \$175)

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Nora Kohlenberg (605) 222-9408.

