It’s hard to believe my term as your President is coming to an end and although it was four years ago I was asked if I would like to serve as SETWS President, it seems like it was only last week. I guess the saying “time flies when you’re having fun” is really true. It has been an honor to serve the Section and to work alongside such great professionals, many of whom I would now consider friends. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Keeping this boat running a good course over the past couple of years requires a great deal of work. And it wouldn’t have happened without my fellow Executive Board members, President-Elect Mike Mengak, Secretary-Treasurer Susan Rupp, Past-President Eric Pelren, and Southeastern Section Representative Mike Conner. More importantly, a big thank you goes out to all our committee chairs and members, your work is always appreciated and valued. All of these people have put in a great deal of time and effort to keep all the balls in the air. Special thanks to Katie Edwards for herding cats and keeping the SETWS newsletter running on time and informative (as you have done for so many years now!).

Flipping through the pages of this newsletter you’ll find the candidate bios for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Please be sure to vote! The Nominations and Elections Committee put together an excellent slate of candidates making this a win-win election for the Section regardless of the outcome giving Mike Mengak a talented and enthusiastic Executive Board to work with. Election results will be announced at our business meeting at the SEAFWA Annual Conference in Louisville, KY.

For those attending the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, this October 29 – November 1, Andy Madison is in need of several volunteers to help judge the best student presentation and poster awards. He needs three judges per technical session for presentations and three judges for posters. In short, we need A LOT of help! Not to mention the students appreciate greatly the feedback they receive from the judges. Please contact Andy via email at amadison@uu.edu if you can help.

As a reminder, the Executive Board will be meeting on Sunday, October 29 from 3:00-5:00pm whereas the SETWS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31 from 3:00-5:00pm. The room assignments haven’t yet been posted so please check the conference website or your program once you arrive on site. If you have anything you would like addressed, please let me know and we’ll get it on the agenda!
On a parting request, I would like to challenge you in the coming year to get involved in our Section or your State or Student Chapter if you haven’t done so lately. From serving on committees to taking on a leadership role to something as simple as nominating a deserving colleague for one of our many awards, your active participation is vitally important for keeping TWS vibrant and relevant now and into the future. Reflecting on the past 20 years or so that I have been actively involved in TWS, I honestly can’t think of a better way to grow professionally, develop a solid network of colleagues, and in many cases develop life-long friendships with other likeminded professionals throughout the country than making the time to volunteer with our professional organization.

Hope to see you in Louisville!

Mark Smith
President, Southeastern Section TWS

Greetings All,

I confess that I am writing this at the last minute. As a result, my thoughts and prayers are with our friends and colleagues in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas and other impacted states who are dealing with the aftermath of catastrophic flooding and damages associated with the recent hurricanes. I encourage each of you to consider how you may be able to help out with the rebuilding process.

By now our annual meeting is either just around the corner or it has just passed. Albuquerque provides an excellent venue and I am confident that this will be another great meeting. The SEAFWA in Louisville will be here soon (Oct 29 – Nov 1). Additionally, many TWS chapter meetings are also taking place within the next month or so. There is certainly no shortage of opportunity to get together with fellow wildlifers during the next few weeks.

In the very near future, I plan to attend the TWS meeting, SEAFWA, the Georgia Chapter meeting, and the South Carolina Chapter meeting. Some chapters hold their meetings in the spring, and I hope to make it to a couple of those as well. If I have not made it to one of your chapter meetings – or even if I have – I hope that you feel free to contact me with questions or concerns regarding The Wildlife Society. I can be most easily reached by email at mconner@jonesctr.org.

Many of you received a request to participate in a TWS survey over the summer. The survey was designed to gain a little bit of information about our membership and a good bit of information regarding author opinions of TWS journals. To those who responded, thank you! Although we have only conducted preliminary analyses, the results are encouraging. Generally speaking, authors have high regard for our journals. However, some responses suggested opportunities for improvement. So, be on the lookout for positive changes to our journals as the results of the survey are further interpreted and implemented.

Finally, I encourage you to nominate deserving colleagues for TWS awards at all levels. If I can assist with the nomination process please feel free to contact me. A description of TWS awards can be found at http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/. It is not too early to begin thinking about nominations.

Have a great fall!

Mike Conner
Southeastern Section Representative
COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.W. WATSON AWARD COMMITTEE

C.W. Watson Award

The 2017 Clarence W. Watson Award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, October 29 - November 1, 2017. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given at the conference and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, information and education, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

SETWS Committee Chair: Chuck Elliott Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

DEER COMMITTEE

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Deer Study Group, hosted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, will be held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN, Monday, February 19 - 21, 2018. The theme of this year’s meeting will be “Stakeholder-focused, Science-based, and Data-driven: The Gold Standard for the State Deer Management System?”.

The Southeast Deer Study Group provides an important forum for researchers and managers to share the latest research results, management strategies and discussions that can facilitate the timely identification of, and solutions to, problems relative to the management of white-tailed deer.

More information on registration and abstract submissions can be found at sedg.com/index.asp/.

SETWS Committee Chair: Steve Shea steve.shea@myfwc.com

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Volunteer Judges Needed

We are looking for volunteers to judge student presentations and posters for the Southeastern Section of TWS at the upcoming 71st Annual SEAFWA Conference, in Louisville, KY. If you know that you will be attending the conference and would be willing to serve as a judge, please contact Andy Madison at amadison@uu.edu. Thank you for your assistance!

SETWS Committee Chair: Andy Madison amadison@uu.edu
COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2017 Annual Report (September 19, 2017)

Over the past year, our primary efforts have continued to center around connecting with each other and learning how and when the section committee can assist the state chapters. We have contacts with all 13 SE TWS member state chapters, but some chapters are still determining who their appropriate long-term representative will be. Many chapters do not have a conservation affairs committee of their own. Our only formal action during the year was to recommend that our SE TWS Executive Board sign on to the online letter in support of Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. President Mark Smith signed on behalf of our SE Section in June.

The biggest specific conservation issue that arose was the feral hog toxicant, Kaput, which was registered in January 2017 by the EPA. The SE CAC ultimately did not take any formal action, but kept up with the issues through ongoing initiatives by state chapters and TWS (national), as well as AFWA and SEAFWA committees. There will be a special symposium on hog toxicants at the SEAFWA conference in Louisville (October 29-Nov 1) that should provide some useful information for us.

I have continued to participate in bi-monthly TWS CAN conference calls, and I've passed the main discussion points and calls for action along to our state members. I also send other emails/alerts along to the state members, as appropriate, and encourage members to send out information they think may be useful to other state chapters in our section.

We held only one conference call this year, during March, but it was recommended that a quarterly call schedule be set up. I didn’t hear of specific needs for such a call during the summer, so I didn’t set one up. I will do so this fall, even if just to check-in. We would like to hold an annual meeting of the SE CAC, in conjunction with the SAFWA conference, when possible. I will not be able to attend the conference this year, but hopefully those members who attend the conference can meet up.

As for committee structure, we agreed that all states should have one member on the SE CAC. I would also like for us to have a vice-chair so that someone will be up to speed to work in my absence (e.g., annual meeting noted above) or when I need to move on.

Over the next year, I would like for us to continue to improve communications among member chapters, determine mutual conservation priorities, and collaborate to improve our chapters’ and region’s impact on these issues.

SETWS Committee Chair: Nelson Lafon, nelson.lafon@dgif.virginia.gov
Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter and Mississippi Chapter held a joint meeting from September 7-8, 2017 at the Mississippi State University Riley Center in Meridian, MS. Dr. Darren Miller, a member of the Mississippi Chapter and current Vice President of TWS Parent Society, headlined the meeting with thoughts on national-scale conservation priorities. Additional invited talks focused on shared Southeastern conservation challenges, along with changing public perceptions about natural resource management. Additional information on the Joint Meeting can be found under the Mississippi Chapter report on page 10.

Alabama DCNR

Alabama Survey Find First Southeastern Bat with White-nose Syndrome

Biologists have confirmed white-nose syndrome (WNS) in the southeastern bat (Myotis austroriparius) for the first time. The species joins eight other hibernating bat species in North America that are afflicted with the deadly bat fungal disease.

The diseased bat was found in Shelby County, Alabama, at Lake Purdy Corkscrew Cave, by surveyors from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Nongame Program; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Alabama Ecological Services Field Office; Ecological Solutions, Inc.; and the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.

The cave is owned by the Birmingham Water Works and managed by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting cave and karst environments across the Southeast through conservation, education and recreation.

WNS in the southeastern bat was confirmed in the laboratory by the U.S. Geological Survey. First detected in New York in 2007, WNS is now in 31 states and five Canadian provinces.

A fungus, Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd), causes WNS, which affects many, but not all bat species that come into contact with it. Of those affected, bat populations have declined by more than 90 percent.

Other species confirmed with WNS include little brown, Northern long-eared, Indiana, Eastern small-footed, gray, tricolored, big brown and Yuma myotis. All the affected species eat insects and hibernate during winter. The Northern long-eared bat was designated as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2015 primarily due to the threat of WNS.
Each winter the Alabama Bat Working Group (ABWG) surveys areas to inventory bat populations, discover important bat hibernation areas and document the advance of WNS. This year biologists from the ABWG surveyed 50 sites in 14 counties and found that numbers of tricolored bats and endangered Indiana bats had substantially declined.

WNS was first documented in Alabama in 2012 in Jackson County, and since has been confirmed in bats in Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Marshall, Morgan and, now, Shelby counties. In addition to finding the diseased southeastern bat this season, the ABWG swabbed more than 100 bats statewide, adding Blount, Bibb and Madison to the list of counties where WNS fungus has been documented. Calhoun, Colbert and Lauderdale tested Pd-positive in previous years.

The full article is available at: http://www.outdooralabama.com/survey-finds-first-southeastern-bat-white-nose-syndrome

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

The Commission recently received the Ernest Thompson Seton Award from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for their response efforts following the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease in Arkansas in 2016. In June, the Wildlife Management Division presented Alex Zachary and Wes Wright with the Division Biologist of the Year Award and Clayton Smith with the Technician of the Year Award.

Cory Gray, who had been serving as the Deer Program Coordinator, was promoted to Manager of the Commission’s new Research, Evaluation, and Compliance Division. Mark Hutchings was promoted to Assistant Division Chief and Stacey Clark took his place as Regional Supervisor in northwestern Arkansas. Ralph Meeker was promoted to the Deer Program Coordinator position and Jeremy Brown took his place as Assistant Deer Program Coordinator. New hires are Clayton Lenk as a private lands biologist out of the Jonesboro office, Hugh Lumpkin, biologist out of the Fort Smith office.

U.S. Forest Service

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation recently awarded Warren Montague, District Wildlife Biologist on the Cold Springs-Poteau Ranger District on the Ouachita National Forest, with the John L. Gray Forestry Conservationist of the Year Award.

Submitted by: Blake Sasse
Blake.Sasse@agfc.ar.gov

FLORIDA

Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society is seeking applicants for the 2018 ‘Greater Everglades Undergraduate Student Memorial Scholarship’ ($2,000) and the 2018 ‘Courtney Tye Graduate Student Memorial Scholarship’ ($3,000). The deadline for applications is mid-December, winners will be contacted in March and checks will be presented at the annual Spring meeting of the Chapter, to be held in Crystal River in April. Visit https://fltws.org/features/2017/9/27/scholarships for more information.
Grass Identification Workshop
October 18-19, 2017
UF-IFAS Range Cattle REC
3401 Experiment Station
Ona, FL 33865

This 2-day workshop will be taught by Brent Sellers and Greg Hendricks, and will include indoor and outdoor classroom exercises in identification and management of native and invasive grasses in Central Florida. Registration is $35.00 for FLTWS members, $15.00 for students, and $60.00 for non-members. Class size is limited so please register soon. The deadline for registration is October 11, 2017, but late registration may be allowed if slots are still available at a cost of $70.00.


GEORGIA

Georgia Bat Working Group

The Georgia Bat Working Group organized its 4th annual bat blitz this past May at Vogel State Park in Blairsville, GA. There were almost 50 participants at the blitz (including many TWS members), with a variety of agencies, consulting firms, and universities being represented. A total of 62 bats were caught including: 25 Eastern Red Bats (Lasiurus borealis), 24 Big Brown bats (Eptesicus fuscus), 10 Silver-haired bats (Lasionycteris noctivagans), 1 Seminole Bat (Lasiurus seminolus), and 2 Small-footed Bats (Myotis leibii).

Submitted by: Andrew Edelman
aedelman@westga.edu

![The University of West Georgia Bat Research Crew at the Georgia Bat Blitz in Vogel State Park. Pictured left to right: Haley Price, Kaitlyn Torrey, and Andy Byers.](image-url)
STATE REPORTS

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources

A newly published plan developed by the KDFWR offers a long-range strategy to help ruffed grouse populations rebound in eastern Kentucky after years of decline. The ten year Ruffed Grouse and Young Forest Strategic Plan calls for the KDFWR to work with government agencies, corporations and private landowners to manage forests on focus areas by creating habitat beneficial to grouse. Focus areas will include WMAs, state forests, the Daniel Boone National Forest, and private lands. Members of the NWTF, Mossy Oak Pro Staff, and KDFWR staff served as instructors for the agencies first Field to Fork: Turkey course. The department plans to expand the Field to Fork program with help from Mossy Oak as part of its R3 (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation) efforts. KDFWR is working with other state organizations to obtain public feedback on a proposed public/private partnership designed to boost the emerging Asian carp fish processing business in Kentucky. KDFWR Conservation Officer Jerrod Alley received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Submitted by: Chuck Elliott
Charles.Elliott@eku.edu

Student Development Working Group

Have you ever heard of the Student Development Working Group? We are a Working Group that promotes increased student awareness of TWS membership benefits, works to expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members, and helps prepare student members for professional wildlife careers. The working group facilitates networking between students and experienced TWS members by hosting meetings, workshops, poster sessions, a mentoring program, and a student chapter leaders’ breakfast. The working group also selects the recipient of The Wildlife Society’s Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Our working group features the latest student’s news in The Student Chronicles. We actively post on our TWS Student Development Working Group Facebook page. We delivery new topics, current student research and professional skill building.

We look forward to being the voice for students to the Parent Society of The Wildlife Society. We are always here to welcome new student members. We look forward to helping and providing for the next generation of the wildlife profession!

If you have any questions about the Student Development Working Group please contact Chair Kristi Confortin at kaconfortin@bsu.edu.

Please visit the link below for the Student Development Working Group Facebook Page. All you have to do is "like" the page to get daily updates! https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel.
LOUISIANA

Louisiana Chapter

The Louisiana Chapter TWS / LAPB had their fall symposium, August 10-11, 2017 on the campus of McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA with a special focus session on the Chenier Plain. There were 77 in attendance. Whitney Kroschel, LSU, received the outstanding student presentation award for her research on seedling response to flood timing in bottomland hardwoods. Sonia Claire Morrone received the outstanding student poster award for her research on biologging the behavior of the Chocoan river turtle. Sonia Claire Morrone received first and second place in the photography contest and Angela Guidry received third place. Rusty Scarborough, master falconer and senior park naturalist/park manager for Caddo Parish Parks and Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park, gave a presentation on the fundamentals of falconry. Chris Reid and Brian Early, LDWF, lead a field trip on the Gray Ranch covering prairie restoration and research. Cody Cedotol, LDWF, discussed quail habitat and management during the field trip.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Beginning with the 2018 spring turkey season, the opening date (April 7, 2018) will be moved back one week later than it has historically opened. Delaying the season opening will allow mature gobblers additional time to breed hens prior to the disturbance associated with hunting season. This coupled with favorable weather conditions and quality nesting and brood rearing habitats should result in increased turkey production.

Submitted by: Jeff Duguay
jduguay@wlf.la.gov

MARYLAND/DELAWARE

NO NEWS REPORTED
Mississippi Chapter

The state chapters of Mississippi and Alabama TWS held a joint meeting this year September 7-8 in Meridian, MS to discuss topics and challenges shared by both states. Approximately 100 attendees from undergraduate students to state directors and TWS executive board members were on hand for the conference. The meeting was hosted at the Mississippi State University Riley Center in downtown Meridian and included keynote speaker and current TWS Vice President Dr. Darren Miller, Southeastern Section TWS President Dr. Mark Smith, Alabama DCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Director Chuck Sykes, and several other excellent professionals. Sixteen presentations were given ranging on topics from policy and funding to endangered species reintroduction research. Attendees were able to learn from other professionals about both new and familiar topics, network with new connections, and socialize with old friends. The meeting also included three professional development opportunities, including structured decision making, wildlife tracking, and team building through skeet shooting. During the Mississippi Chapter business meeting several awards and honors were given including the Dale H. Arner Honorary Membership Award to Mr. Ed Hackett and the Dr. Sam Riffell Conservation Excellence Award to Dr. Darren Miller. In all, members new and old, young and well-seasoned were able to share their understandings of issues facing both states and ways in which we can strive to complete the conservation tasks ahead.

Submitted by: Christopher R. Ayers
chris.ayers@msstate.edu

From left to right: TWS Vice President Dr. Darren Miller, Southeastern Section TWS President Dr. Mark Smith, Alabama DCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Director Chuck Sykes.
The Dale H. Arner Honorary Membership Award was presented to Ed Hackett (left).

New TWS Policy Resources Available

TWS policy resources are available for chapters, sections, and members to learn about policy, conservation issues, and advocate on behalf of wildlife professionals on current issues affecting wildlife management and conservation.

TWS' Fact Sheet Series provides scientific explanations to issues involved in wildlife management and conservation, covering topics such as invasive species, domestic cats, and feral horses and burros.

TWS' Policy Brief Series provides information on a variety of different policies related to wildlife management and conservation. Each of these briefs focuses on a specific federal policy or program, describes how it operates, and demonstrates its impact for wildlife and wildlife professionals.

New policy briefs have also been added to the series:

- The Farm Bill: Conservation (Title II) Programs
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- United States Congressional Appropriations Process

TWS has also updated its Policy Priority Reference Lists that provide source information on journal articles — pulled from TWS publications — related to TWS’ ten policy priorities. Visit http://wildlife.org/engage/policy/ for more information.
Identifying Fish Eating Birds at Catfish Aquaculture Facilities Using UAV’s

Commercial production of aquatic species at aquaculture facilities is over a billion dollar industry in the United States. A significant portion of this comes from the production of farm raised catfish in the southeastern US, specifically Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Catfish are raised here in large pond systems that are clumped together and open to the environment. Because of this, catfish are readily depredated on by fish eating wildlife species inhabiting the region. The most significant of these predators are bird species, including double-crested cormorants, great blue herons, and great egrets. Damages and economic losses attributed to these fish eating birds has been a primary and continuous problem in the Southeast. To help mitigate damages to catfish operations proper monitoring of these birds is essential, and is commonly done using aerial surveys from fixed wing aircrafts. While these surveys are effective, they can be extremely expensive, time consuming, and dangerous. Researchers from the USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center and Mississippi State University’s High Performance Computing Collaboratory have partnered up to test an alternative method to monitor birds at aquaculture facilities.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV’s) are a rapidly advancing tool that may be well suited as an effective monitoring method for just this purpose. UAV’s open new possibilities such as near real-time, low-cost aerial surveying and high resolution image capturing as an economically and ecologically viable alternative to classical manned aerial surveys. Recorded images taken from UAV’s also open up the possibility for computer guided counting of birds, eliminating the time consuming process of manual counting. Our goal was to test the effectiveness of UAV’s, along with computer based recognition to identify birds on catfish ponds as a viable survey alternative. To do this, we employed a UAV to survey a selected group of catfish ponds in North Western Mississippi. Imagery was manually counted and then a computer guided algorithm was applied to identify birds.

We completed a total of three UAV flights which surveyed 56 catfish ponds, capturing imagery of 318 cormorants, 56 herons, and 1,170 egrets. Manual counting of birds was very effective, although time consuming. Computer guided identification success varied between species, with an average correct identification of 67% (range: 43-84%) for egrets, 47% (range: 1-100%) for herons, and 44% (range: 26-65%) for cormorants. Success is highly dependent on weather, image quality (resolution), habitat characteristics, and characteristics of the species themselves. Egret identification was most successful due to the stark contrast between their white feathers and background, whereas herons and cormorants are more cryptic. Although the computer guided identification was highly variable, UAV’s do show promise as an effective monitoring tool for birds at aquaculture facilities. Similar techniques are also being applied for a variety of other uses, and accuracy continues to improve with technological advances. From an ecological and management perspectives, UAV’s have near limitless applications including collection of wildlife abundance and distribution information, reproductive estimation, habitat data metrics, etc., all while being potentially less invasive and cheaper alternatives to classical methods. Their use in wildlife related work will undoubtedly continue to grow and prove to be an essential tool in the discipline.

Paul C. Burr, Research Assistant, Mississippi State University
Brian Dorr, Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Collaborative Research on Foraging Habits and the Economic Impact of Scaup on Commercial Baitfish and Sportfish Farms in Arkansas

Arkansas’ baitfish and sportfish industries together generate approximately $26 million annually in farm gate sales. Like many commercial agro-based enterprises, human-wildlife conflicts often arise between producers and wildlife that exploit these easily accessible, food-rich resources. Lesser scaup (Aythya affinis) and greater scaup (A. marila), hereafter scaup, are suspected in depredating Arkansas’ commercially grown baitfish and sportfish. During fall-winters 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, researchers from Mississippi State University (MSU), USDA’s National Wildlife Research Center (at MSU), USDA’s Wildlife Services, The University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and Virginia Tech University are collaborating to study the impacts of scaup on bait- and sportfish farms in Arkansas.

Objectives of the study include: 1) assessing abundance and distribution of scaup using baitfish and sportfish farms, 2) quantify abundance of available prey (baitfish and sportfish) in ponds, and the quantity of fish and other prey consumed by scaup, and 3) estimating the total amount of bait- and sportfish consumed annually by wintering scaup across commercial ponds in eastern Arkansas. Our study is timely because of recent heightened awareness among producers to the potential loss of fish to scaup.

We are also collecting scaup by directly shooting actively feeding individuals and transporting them to a MSU necropsy lab for processing and food habits analysis. Ultimately, with estimates of scaup abundance and fish consumption, we will develop an economic analysis of the potential losses of fish product in this important Arkansas industry.

We are especially thankful for funding from USDA’s Southern Regional Aquaculture Center and the cooperation of the Arkansas’ producers participating in the study. Our results will enhance knowledge of this human-wildlife conflict and help generate science-based conservation solutions for bait- and sportfish producers.

Stephen Clements, Graduate Assistant, Mississippi State University
Brian Davis, Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University
Brian Dorr, Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Katie C. Hanson-Dorr, Wildlife Biologist, USDA/WS/National Wildlife Research Center
Luke Roy, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
Anita Kelly, Extension Fish Health Specialist, UAPB
Carole Engle, Adjunct Faculty, Virginia Tech University
Wild turkeys are beloved by hunters and non-hunters alike and there is no question we all love to hear them gobble. They are an infinitely valuable public trust resource in North Carolina. In recent years, more than 60,000 hunters pursue turkeys each spring and annually harvest more than 15,000 birds. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission’s (NCWRC) management emphasizes spring gobbler hunting, which allows the population to grow in numbers and distribution, and seeks to satisfy turkey hunters to the extent possible. Good turkey management requires a thorough understanding of their reproductive ecology and a key factor is knowing when and why turkeys gobble. There are two peaks in gobbling during the spring. The first occurs when the males first begin to attract hens. The second occurs after hens are bred and are unavailable to the toms because they are incubating eggs. The second peak in gobbling identifies the time when toms can be safely taken from the population without impacting the reproductive process and is, therefore, the ideal time for a spring turkey season. Understanding and correctly identifying the pattern in gobbling activity is, therefore, crucial to good turkey management. The restoration of North Carolina’s wild turkeys was a tremendous success story, taking place over more than 5 decades and involving the trapping and transferring of more than 6,000 wild turkeys. In the past, manpower and funding limited the amount of gobbling information that could be collected. Today, we are fortunate that new technologies allow us the opportunity to better understand the pattern of gobbling activity and identify the second peak of gobbling across North Carolina. We made tremendous progress in this regard during the spring of 2016. Financial support was graciously provided by the North Carolina State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Their support, combined with Pittman-Robertson funds, allowed us to purchase and deploy 50 acoustic recorders. In many ways, acoustic recorders are very similar to trail cameras. They are attached to a tree, remain there the entire season, and collect data without animals reacting to a person’s presence. The chief difference is that they record a digital sound file rather than taking a picture. You might say they “listen” instead of “look.” We can review the files they record and identify the sounds of turkeys, songbirds, or any other animal that makes a recognizable call. For our turkey project, we had to consider several things in deciding where to deploy the recorders. Most importantly, we want to get a true picture of gobbling activity. We did not want the picture to be influenced by hunting pressure so we deployed the recorders on State Parks and other private properties that had no hunting. Turkeys were present on all the properties and, in most cases, they were very abundant. In total, we identified 15,535 gobbles in 2016, the first year of our project! Our best individual recorder, located on New River State Park in Ashe County, detected 1,862 gobbles. A few of the recorders were placed on properties where turkeys were present, but not very abundant. Not surprisingly, these units recorded very few gobbles. On average, recorders detected 310 gobbles each. We have been very encouraged by our results in the first year of this project.

We detected gobbling activity nearly every day through the spring and found the equipment/software to be very efficient for this type
of research. In 2017, we spread our recorders across all nine of our wildlife districts. We expect that over the next few years our efforts will give a complete picture of gobbling activity across the entire state. This will allow us to ensure that we open our spring hunting season at the ideal time to maximize hunter satisfaction and turkey reproduction. Once we know the gobbling activity patterns, we would also like to study the effects of weather and hunting pressure on gobbling activity. A detailed report, including charts of the gobbling patterns, can be found at http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Wild-Turkey.

Chris Kreh, NCWRC, Upland Game Bird Biologist
Allison Medford, NCWRC, Wildlife Diversity Biologist

Submitted by: Deanna Noble
Deanna.Noble@ncwildlife.org

Acoustic Recorder.
Photo credit: Chris Kreh.

OKLAHOMA

NO NEWS REPORTED

Benny Mazur
South Carolina Chapter

A State Chapter meeting is planned for October 4, 2017 at Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC. The morning session will be on climate change. Afternoon presentations will be by selected students followed by a business meeting at 3:00pm that will include elections and awards. The full agenda and registration link is available on the SC Chapter website at: http://wildlife.org/south-carolina/annual-meeting/.

South Carolina DNR

Northern Long-eared Bats Found in Two New Counties, and Breeding, on South Carolina’s Coastal Plain

Five Northern long-eared bats have been captured in two new counties on the South Carolina’s Coastal Plain: Charleston and Berkeley counties. In addition, evidence of a breeding population has been found. Historically, this federally threatened species was known in South Carolina to exist only in the Upstate, but were discovered in fall 2016 on the Coastal Plain in Beaufort County.

Dottie Brown, senior ecologist at the consulting firm Ecological Solutions Inc., reported to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) the capture of five Northern long-eared bats as part of a bat research project being conducted in Francis Marion National Forest: two juveniles (one female, one male) and three adults (one female, two males). They were captured mid-June through early July near a stream corridor. “With the presence of a lactating female and two juveniles, there’s no doubt they are reproducing here in the summer,” said Brown. “These may be the first documented active summer roosts for Northern long-eared bats on any coastal plain.”

Brown and her team fitted the bats with radio transmitters, and tracked them to a daytime roost each day. Although the main maternity roosts have dispersed at this point in the season, multiple bats were documented leaving juvenile roosts during emergence surveys. Northern long-eared bats used to be commonly found in mature forests and large tree cavities before their populations declined. However, opportunistic selection of roost-sites within a wide range of tree size and species has also been seen.

“We were excited to hear Northern long-eared bats had been found on our coast last fall, but weren’t sure if they were migrating or part of a potential year-round population,” said Jennifer Kindel, SCDNR wildlife biologist.

Northern long-eared bat juvenile.
Photo Credit: Brent Henry
Ecological Solutions, Inc.
Kindel, along with an SCDNR intern and volunteers, are conducting netting surveys for Northern long-eared bats on the coast and in the Upstate this summer. They recently completed surveys at Victoria Bluff and Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserves, capturing 73 individuals of six different species, but no Northern long-eared bats. "However," she said, "knowing Northern long-eared bats breed on our coast and could be using uncommon roost sites has huge implications for management and the survival of this threatened species."

Before populations of Northern long-eared bats began plummeting in recent years largely due to White-nose Syndrome (WNS; a disease that’s killed over 6 million bats of seven different species in North America thus far), Northern long-eared bats were usually found in mountain forests. More research is needed to understand what this could mean for the species, but it could be positive news in relation to WNS. The fungus that causes WNS attacks bats while they’re hibernating, so if populations of this species are active on South Carolina’s warm, semi-tropical coast during winter, it could potentially reduce their contact and mortality from this devastating disease. [Credit: Article originally published by Jennifer Kindel, SCDNR.]

**Horry-Georgetown Technical College**

Horry Georgetown Technical College’s (HGTC) Wildlife Technology advisement path in their Forestry Technology Program received another 5-year accreditation from the North American Wildlife Technology Association (NAWTA: https://www.nawta.org/). NAWTA is a third-party organization for Associates Degree programs across the US and Canada that ensures quality instruction and specific standards. There are only 2 schools (Haywood Community College and HGTC) in the southeastern U.S. with this accreditation. The general standard is 1,000 total hours of instruction with at least 400 total hours of field/lab instruction. This is the second time HGTC has received the maximum allowed 5-year accreditation.

Submitted by: Anna H. Smith
smithah@dnr.sc.gov

Kathy Hutchinson
TENNESSEE

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

This summer the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) relaunched its Summer Internship Program. The program, which is coordinated by Tim White of TWRA and Chris Graves and Emma Willcox of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, employs 23 students each summer to work in wildlife-related positions across the state. Positions are available with the TWRA Wildlife, Fisheries, and Biodiversity Divisions and are open to undergraduate students in Tennessee pursuing a degree in wildlife and/or fisheries science, or a related field, with at least one semester of school remaining. The 2017 cohort of interns just completed their summer internships and the program has already proven to be a huge success, with many TWRA staff members describing their interns as providing a very valuable contribution to the agency’s work and mission. The application process for 2018 interns is anticipated to begin in November 2017, with interviews planned for late February.

Shortleaf Pine Initiative

The Shortleaf Pine Initiative (SPI) is pleased to present the 4th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference October 3-5, 2017, at the historic Stockton Seaview Hotel in Galloway, New Jersey. Surrounded by New Jersey’s own Pine Barrens, the conference will feature sessions by 20+ shortleaf experts and an in-person look at forest restoration and land management practices. For more information, or to register, visit www.shortleafpine.net/shortleaf-pine-initiative/conference.

SPI is a collaborative, strategic, and energetic response to the dramatic decline of shortleaf pine forests and associated habitats that once covered a vast area from eastern Texas to Florida and up the eastern seaboard to New Jersey. Over the last 30 years, more than 50% of these forested acres have been lost with the most significant declines taking place east of the Mississippi River. While efforts to reverse these disturbing trends have been made in the past, now is the time for a more robust and concerted effort involving stakeholders across the range. At stake is an extraordinary diversity of cultural, ecological and economic values centered on wildlife and recreation, water quality and a high
value wood products industry. With millions of people depending on the benefits of this imperiled ecosystem, the need to develop a range-wide conservation strategy is more compelling than ever.

While some restoration efforts have been underway for some time, a range-wide conservation plan for shortleaf pine was released in June 2016 to identify optimum restoration strategies, increase coordination among shortleaf proponents and maximize the effectiveness of ongoing efforts. To read the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Plan or for more information, visit www.shortleafpine.net.

Cleveland State Community College

The Cleveland State Community College student chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a big summer! We concluded our school year with our annual wild game dinner and fundraiser auction. Early in the summer, 14 students traveled to New Mexico to spend a grueling but exciting 10 days hiking the mountains and beautiful wilderness of New Mexico while studying western ecology and management practices with a lot of help from the US Forest Service! Students also spent the summer taking part in fieldwork with the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Bear Study constructing, baiting, and monitoring over 30 black bear hair snare sites across Tennessee and Georgia. We will be finishing out the summer with some trout removal with the Tellico Hatchery before school starts back.

Tennessee Tech University

The Tennessee Tech student chapter of The Wildlife Society has been hard at work. Our chapter has been helping the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Black Bear Study, setting hair snares and collecting samples for a population study. This was a great opportunity for our chapter to get some field experience and be a part of a great project. Our chapter is focused on creating beneficial opportunities for our members this year, and the calendar is filling up fast! Some of our upcoming events include, working bird banding stations, WMA maintenance, bear and deer check-in stations, and a Wheeling Sportsman Hunt hosted by NWTF. We are also working on community outreach events, and aiding our local state parks with volunteer work. Our chapter is looking forward to a year full of new opportunities.

Submitted by: Steven Hayslette
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VIRGINIA

NO NEWS REPORTED
DUCKS UNLIMITED

Awards

ConocoPhillips First Recipient of DU Corporate Conservation Achievement Award

DU CEO Dale Hall presented the award to ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance at DU’s National Convention. The award was created to recognize corporations from the United States, Canada or Mexico that have made exceptional contributions to conservation in North America.

“ConocoPhillips has a long and storied history with the conservation community and specifically with Ducks Unlimited,” said Ducks Unlimited Past President and Chairman of the Board George Dunklin, Jr. “The partnership spans more than 25 years, and countless acres have been impacted, improved and protected throughout North America due to this company’s vision and generosity. ConocoPhillips and Ducks Unlimited have partnered together on numerous projects, but those we’ve collaborated on in the Gulf Coast region highlight ConocoPhillips' commitment to coastal restoration and DU’s technical expertise at delivering on-the-ground work.”

The company debuted a partnership video featuring their dedication to conservation on the Louisiana Coast. ConocoPhillips’ varied commitment to conservation across North America exemplifies the many ways corporations and Ducks Unlimited can work together to achieve common goals. Ducks Unlimited has 80 years of experience delivering wetland restoration and enhancement projects across North America. These projects provide waterfowl habitat, infrastructure protection, water quality enhancement and community resilience on a grand scale.

Southeast Conservation Unit – AR, AL, FL, GA, North LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA

Alabama
Weiss Lake Project

The Weiss Lake project in northeastern Alabama is a cooperative project between the Alabama Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) and Alabama Power Company. The 30,200-acre lake straddles the border between Alabama and Georgia. ADNR asked Ducks Unlimited to provide technical advice in the planning stages. As ADNR moves forward with the project, they plan to contract with DU to perform the engineering design and construction management of the project. When agreements and permit approvals are in place, DU will begin the survey and design. Once complete, the project will provide additional waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities in Alabama. The project is currently projected to be finished by the end of 2018.

Arkansas
AGFC Increases Canadian Habitat Funding

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) recently committed to meeting their goal for contributions supporting wetlands restoration on Canadian breeding grounds important to Arkansas’ waterfowl.

“AGFC has been a dedicated wetlands conservation partner for many years,” DU Director of Conservation Programs Craig LeSchack said. “Both in Arkansas and on the breeding grounds where most of their waterfowl are born each year, the agency has focused its efforts and support on improving habitat for waterfowl and opportunity for hunters.”
Last June, Assistant Deputy Director Chris Colclasure, Chief of Wildlife Management Brad Carner and AGFC communications staff members Trey Reid and Jeff Williams traveled to Saskatchewan to view conservation projects implemented by Ducks Unlimited Canada and supported by Arkansas’ participation in AFWA’s state contributions to Canada program.

After seeing the habitat work, the AGFC voted to increase their annual contributions from $425,000 to $580,000, bringing them to their AFWA goal. The state’s contribution yields amplified dividends for the Natural State’s waterfowl hunters. As with all states that contribute to the program through Ducks Unlimited, AGFC’s contribution will be matched by DU and leveraged through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, resulting in at least $2.32 million a year for conservation projects from the state’s $580,000 annual commitment. Projects are primarily in Saskatchewan, where banding data indicate most of the waterfowl harvested in the state are born.

North Louisiana Wham Brake Dedication

Nearly 40 conservation partners gathered at Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area to celebrate the completion of the Wham Brake enhancement project. Ducks Unlimited and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries partnered on the project to enhance 3,500 acres of wetland habitat in northeast Louisiana.

Ducks Unlimited wetland engineers replaced three failing structures, a bridge that connected the entrance road to the boat ramp and levee, and a large, concrete weir water-control structure that controls much of the water level in the basin, enabling LDWF to manage habitat more effectively. This terminal structure is 270 feet wide and made of 550 cubic yards of reinforced concrete.

The enhancement work is part of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. Project partners include LDWF, Ducks Unlimited, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, the Walker Foundation, Biedenharn Foundation, International Paper and DU major sponsors who support the America’s River Initiative.
Mississippi
Enhancing National Forest Green Tree Reservoirs in Mississippi

Ducks Unlimited is working with the U.S. Forest Service to restore management capacity and infrastructure on Delta National Forest. The 60,000-acre Delta National Forest is located in Sharkey County north of Vicksburg, Mississippi, within the floodplain of the Mississippi River. It is one of the few hardwood forests remaining in the Mississippi Delta and the nation’s only bottomland hardwood ecosystem in the National Forest System.

Project plans have been finalized, and construction should start this summer or early fall. In addition to this project, there are many additional structures in need of replacement at Delta National Forest, as funding is available. All five of the green tree reservoirs (GTR) on Delta National Forest were constructed around 1980 with corrugated metal pipes. Most of the pipes are in very poor condition, limiting water management capabilities. DU is working with the Forest Service to identify the highest priority structures for potential future projects.

Delta National Forest is an important partner in the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, one of the emphasis areas of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, providing important habitat to wintering, migrating and resident birds. On an annual basis, the Forest manages about 10,000 acres of forested wetland habitat primarily for wintering waterfowl. All the GTRs area open to public waterfowl hunting.

North Carolina
Enviva Forest Conservation Fund Supports NC Wetlands Conservation

The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund is providing $175,000 to Ducks Unlimited and partners to assist with the acquisition of more than 6,000 acres in Camden County, North Carolina. The property is designated as wetlands and includes pocosins and Atlantic white cedar stands, which are bottomland forest ecosystems that the Fund has designated as priority conservation targets. Once acquired, this property will be owned by the state and open to the public as a WMA. The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund is a $5 million, 10-year program.
established by Enviva Holdings, LP in December 2015 to permanently protect environmentally sensitive bottomland and wetland forests. Administered by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Fund awards grants annually to nonprofit organizations and government agencies for conservation projects in North Carolina and Virginia. Enviva Holdings, LP is the world’s largest producer of wood pellets.

**South Carolina**

**Barrier Island Projects in South Carolina**

Ducks Unlimited is working with partners on restoration efforts on two barrier islands off the coast of South Carolina. Capers Island State Heritage Preserve, which is an undeveloped barrier island owned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is located approximately 15 miles north of Charleston, between Dewees Island and Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Capers Island lies about three miles from the mainland, is approximately three miles long and is accessible only by boat. DU improved wetland habitat by installing a water-control structure with tidal gates and bulkheads. DU also enhanced embankment infrastructure and the island’s internal canal system. These improvements allow DNR staff to utilize tide cycles to flush nutrients and marine species into the island’s predominately stagnant water system.

Restoration work is also taking place on Bulls Island, part of Cape Romain NWR. The refuge stretches along 22 miles of the South Carolina coast and provides important habitat for a variety of shorebird species. The dike currently in place on the island’s Jacks Creek waterway has long suffered from erosion caused by shifting tidal currents that remove sand and sediment from the beachfront, as well as wave action from the Atlantic Ocean. To address this, DU is installing a new cross dike and associated water-control structure on the creek. These new structures will improve management capabilities and increase habitat diversity for beachfront shorebirds, which have experienced dramatic habitat loss primarily due to development. Cape Romain NWR is a part of the Cape Romain Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International importance.

Capers Island State Heritage Preserve, SC.
Tennessee
TWRA Increases Funding for Breeding Ground Conservation

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has increased their funding commitment to support waterfowl habitat conservation projects in Canada. During a tour of previously supported projects in Canada last spring, agency leadership was pleased with the impact Ducks Unlimited was able to have with their support. TWRA has signed a new five-year agreement pledging $166,000 to Ducks Unlimited annually for conservation work in Canada.

As with all such state contributions, Ducks Unlimited will match it dollar for dollar, it will then be used as match for North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants and leveraged further by DU Canada. That means for every dollar a state contributes through Ducks Unlimited, breeding ground habitat conservation gets at least four times the investment. Band return data will guide these investments to the landscapes that produce most of the waterfowl that wing their way to Tennessee each fall.

This step brings TWRA to their state contribution goal, which is established by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) based on each state’s hunter numbers and waterfowl harvest. AFWA designed the state contributions program in 1965 to support habitat conservation on breeding grounds in Canada where much of the continental population of waterfowl are born, and more than 40 states participated this year.

TWRA Commissioners visit Canada (2016).
Virginia
Back Bay NWR Project Funded

Ducks Unlimited’s (DU) Virginia Tidal Rivers and Bays II grant proposal was selected for funding through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This grant will fund the enhancement of 609 acres of wetlands within managed impoundments on Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach, VA. The project will increase management capabilities by adding and upgrading water control structures, modifying an existing pump station and enhancing canals and embankments to improve water delivery throughout the wetland system. DU will deliver the project from start to finish, providing engineering survey and design, biological expertise and construction oversight and management. Once completed, this project will allow USFWS refuge managers to achieve independent management of impoundments and encourage production of quality forage for waterfowl, provide mudflats and sheet water for shorebird foraging habitat and control undesirable plant species.

Submitted by: Andi Cooper
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“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” Available Now!

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” is the first comprehensive book to describe the entry-level jobs available for the next generation of wildlife biologists and conservationists. If you are a student preparing for a wildlife career or new professional looking for career advice, this new book published by The Wildlife Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University belongs in your library!

Editors Scott E. Henke and Paul R. Krausman include detailed chapters on how students should prepare for a vocation in the wildlife profession while offering pragmatic advice about applying for and obtaining a job. The book presents over 100 diverse career options that are available to aspiring wildlife workers, including work in biological field research, forestry, rehabilitation, ranching, photography and refuge management. It also details each position’s educational and technical requirements, challenges, salaries and opportunities for advancement and offers advice from a range of seasoned experts who actually hold these jobs and have used these techniques to secure employment.

“Becoming a Wildlife Professional” also conveys important philosophical messages about the responsibilities and challenges of a career in wildlife conservation and management. With all this information in one place, the book is an essential text for wildlife science students interested in making themselves marketable for employers across a wide spectrum of wildlife jobs.

TWS members receive a 30 percent discount on all titles published by the Society in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University Press. Be sure to enter the discount code HTWS at checkout. Order your copy today. The TWS member price is $59.50
71st Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Sunday, October 29 - Wednesday, November 1, 2017 • Louisville, Kentucky

The annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen’s organizations, universities, and private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource related organizations.

Hosted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 71st Annual Conference, “Creative Conservation Strategies for 21st Century Challenges” will be held at the Galt House Hotel in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky.

The Southeastern Section TWS (SETWS) Executive Board will be meeting on Sunday, October 29 from 3:00-5:00pm. The SETWS Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31 from 3:00-5:00pm. Please visit the seafwa.org for more information.

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It’s All About the Impact!
TWS Journals Deliver Science-Based Wildlife Management and Conservation to a Broad Audience

At the beginning of 2017, The Wildlife Society made a major commitment to increasing the impact of the Society’s peer-reviewed publications: online access to TWS’ three journals for all members — from students to retirees — became our newest membership benefit. This means that you can read all the latest papers in each issue of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and *Wildlife Monographs* on any internet-connected device, anywhere, at any time. Plus you have access to the complete archives of these journals as part of your TWS membership.

This new benefit, worth $75 and nearly the cost of an $81 full membership, reinforces TWS’ mission to inspire, empower and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

It also means that everything TWS publishes, which includes *The Wildlife Professional* and Technical Reviews, is free to all members.

**Higher Impact in 2016**

Of course, a journal’s impact is also measured by its impact factor. Love them or hate them, impact factors have a large, but controversial, influence on the way published scientific research is perceived and evaluated.

We were pleased to learn that the impact factors for each of TWS’ three journals increased in 2016. The Thomson Reuters’ impact factor ranking system is based on the number of times an average article is cited during the previous two years.

*The Journal of Wildlife Management*’s 2016 impact factor was 1.897, up from 1.725, *Wildlife Monographs*’ was 5.750, up from 5.125, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*’s was 0.967, up from 0.781.

This good news is truly a testament to the leadership of each journal. **Paul Krausman** serves as editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, **Dave Haukos** is the *Bulletin*’s editor-in-chief and **Eric Hellgren**, who recently stepped down, served as editor-in-chief of *Wildlife Monographs* for 10 years. **Merav Ben-David** was selected to replace him earlier this year.

**Planning for Future Impact**

The impact factor increases are an important milestone in TWS’ 2015 – 2019 strategic plan, which includes themes of being an organization recognized for expertise in science-based wildlife management and conservation and supporting, encouraging, and enabling members to conserve and manage wildlife through the application of science.
You may also recall that earlier this year, you received an invitation to participate in a survey conducted by the Publications Subcommittee chaired by Mike Conner. We were pleased that nearly 900 members participated in the survey, as well as 79 individuals who are not members, but have published in a TWS journal. The results, which are now being analyzed, will help inform the next steps we can take to improve our journals and attract more submissions.

Speaking of submissions, members interested in submitting papers to TWS' journals, can easily access the recently updated unified author guidelines to find out more. We want to encourage all members to submit papers to our journals.

More Readers Equals More Impact

Without a doubt, the impact of TWS’ journals is growing! In 2017, when online journal access became a TWS membership benefit, we greatly expanded the number of members who can regularly read each issue. In addition, last year the number of subscribing institutions grew by 25 percent for *The Journal of Wildlife Management* to 4,251 worldwide and nearly tripled for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* to 1,503. This means wildlife biologists nearly everywhere have access to and potentially can read our journals.

By more widely disseminating research on wildlife management and conservation that is scientifically based, TWS is working to have a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.

As always, watch for announcements about TWS' journals on www.wildlife.org and in the weekly *eWildlifer*.

How to Access TWS Journals

To view the journals in the Wiley Online Library, simply login to the TWS website. Under the “Publications” tab, you will find the list of journals. Click on the one you want to view, which will take you directly to that journal’s landing page on the Wiley website.

You can also sign up for automated delivery of the table of contents so that you are notified when each new issue is posted. This service is not part of your membership, so must register on the Wiley website. Free apps for the TWS' journals are available for both Apple and Android users. Go to the app store and search for the name of the journal to download the app. To access the content, you will need to enter your TWS user name and password.

*Nancy Sasavage*  
Director of Publications and Communications for The Wildlife Society and the editor-in-chief of *The Wildlife Professional*
The Journal of Wildlife Management, published since 1937, is one of the world’s leading scientific journals covering wildlife science, management and conservation. Published eight times per year, Editor-in-chief Paul R. Krausman emphasizes that the journal publishes papers focusing on aspects of wildlife that can assist management and conservation by providing life-history data, modeling, new analytical and quantitative approaches, theory, and new approaches to understand human dimensions.

Wildlife Monographs, published since 1958, are single-topic, peer-reviewed studies on specific problems and issues in wildlife science, management and conservation. After 10 years, Editor-in-chief Eric Hellgren stepped down early this year. He was replaced by Merav Ben-David.

Editor-in-chief David Haukos says the Wildlife Society Bulletin focuses on manuscripts that directly assist with on-the-ground management and conservation. The Bulletin got its start in 1973. After a brief hiatus, it was re-launched as an online-only journal in 2011. This peer-reviewed publication, published four times per year, contains papers related to wildlife management, law enforcement, education, economics, administration, ethics and more.

TWS Southeastern Student Conclave

The 2018 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave will be hosted by the LSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Baton Rouge, LA, from March 24-27. Student chapters of The Wildlife Society gather from across the southeastern region of the U.S. to participate in competitions and training. Activities include art and photography contests, a quiz bowl, game-calling competitions, a team competition, individual competitions, guest speakers, entertainment, and field trips. Conclave is a valuable professional development opportunity. Students network with other students, faculty members, and wildlife professionals while developing new knowledge and skills. For more information visit: http://wildlife.org/next-generation/annual-conclaves/
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society Officer Nominations

The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society announces candidates for the 2017 election of incoming officers for the positions of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Candidate statements are provided below. An electronic ballot will be emailed to current Southeastern Section members. You may submit your ballot electronically to the Chair of the Nominating Committee and current SETWS President-Elect Michael Mengak, mmengak@uga.edu. Ballots must be received by October 30, 2017. The nomination committee of Lyne Askins and Emma Willcox are to be commended for their service and effort on behalf of the Southeastern Section TWS. We believe this is an excellent slate of candidates that will serve the section very well if elected.

Candidates for President-Elect

Ray Iglay

Ray Iglay is an assistant research professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University (MSU), a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, and training coordinator for the U.S.D.A. APHIS Wildlife Services National Training Academy. He received his Master’s in Wildlife Science and Ph.D. in Forest Resources from MSU in 2007 and 2010. Ray has been actively involved with The Wildlife Society at national, state, and student levels for over 8 years concomitant to responsibilities associated with applied wildlife research and university teaching such as 17 peer-reviewed manuscripts, managing over $3 million of research grants, and teaching 4 upper-classmen undergraduate courses. He has served wildlife professionals as past president of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), past chair of the international Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group, co-advisor for the MSU student chapter of TWS, 0486 Biologist Series subject matter expert, reviewer for 15 journals, and educator of the next generation of wildlife biologists regarding wildlife conservation and management and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.

He currently serves as secretary/treasurer for the Mississippi Chapter of TWS. Ray has been interested in expanding his TWS service to the southeastern region as a board member of the Southeastern Section of TWS since he began serving in TWS and participating in TWS’s Leadership Institute in 2011. As president-elect and consequently president and past president, Ray looks forward to applying all of his experiences to expanding the impact of the Southeastern Section through service to his fellow board members, current members of the Section and TWS, and wildlife biologists throughout the region. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his two children and wife in Starkville, MS, managing a small business helping landowners achieve their wildlife management goals, playing piano and hunting and fishing.

NOMINATIONS CONTINUED ON PAGE 31
Andy Madison

Andy Madison is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and has been serving there since 2002. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Tennessee. For his Master of Science at the University of Kentucky he studied whether using fire, disking, or herbicide could eliminate tall fescue and if natural regeneration would provide suitable northern bobwhite habitat. While obtaining his PhD at Kansas State University, he examined the effectiveness of using food plots for improving overwinter survival of northern bobwhites and examined the metabolic efficiency of several seeds commonly planted for quail.

After completing his doctorate, he worked for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, evaluating their private lands wildlife management plans program. He then moved to Georgia, where he taught biology and ecology at Waycross College. He currently teaches wildlife biology and wildlife management courses at Union University and has a passion for in-the-field education. His favorite course to teach is Ornithology, which requires a lot of personal time with the students in a variety of challenging field conditions. He also directs undergraduate research efforts and has guided students in a variety of projects, including an assessment of wild turkey populations at a local army base, comparing grassland bird populations in Conservation Reserve Program fields and traditionally managed agricultural fields, and evaluating the effectiveness of various techniques for assessing predator populations.

Andy is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1992. For the past three years, he has served as Chair of the Southeastern Section Student Awards Committee. He has a great appreciation for the Southeastern Section’s commitment to promote professionalism and connecting students with wildlife biologists. He is committed to conservation of our natural resources, particularly through the education of the next generation of conservation biologists and wildlife biologists.
Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

Kelly Douglass

Kelly Douglass currently serves as a Technical Assistance Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. She has held this position since 2010. She primarily works with private landowners in the Piedmont region of North Carolina to manage their property for various wildlife species. Before transferring into this position in 2010, she worked as Captive Cervid Biologist with the NCWRC for 6 years and was responsible for establishing and coordinating the statewide Captive Cervid Program. Kelly is very active in The Wildlife Society, and has held many leadership roles with the NC Chapter, Southeastern Section, and parent society since 2002. For the North Carolina Chapter of TWS, she is currently serving as co-editor of the Chapter newsletter (2016-present), chair of the Communications Committee (2016-present; member since 2014), member of the Conservation Affairs Committee (2013-present), and student mentor (2011-present). In the last five years for NCTWS, she has served as President-elect, President, and Past President of the Chapter (possibly the youngest in Chapter history) from 2014-2016, Secretary (2012-2014), chair of the Professional Development Committee (2012-2014, member since 2011), chair of the Procedures Committee (2014-2015), chair of the Nominating and Elections Committee (2014-2016), and member of the Awards Committee (2011-2013). For the Southeastern Section of TWS, she served as chair of the Student Awards Committee (2012-2014, member 2015) and chair of the Publications Committee (2013-2014). For the parent society, she is currently serving as newsletter editor for the Forestry & Wildlife Working Group (2016-present) and was recently elected as Secretary/Treasurer for the FWWG (2017-2019). She also served on the Arrangements Committee (member 2014-2016) and chaired the Local Information Subcommittee (2014-2016) to help plan the 2016 TWS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, a Certified NC Environmental Educator, and an alumni of the TWS Leadership Institute (2008). She holds a bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from NC State University in 2002, and a master’s degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from NCSU in 2011.
Andrew Little

Andrew Little has been actively engaged in The Wildlife Society (TWS) since his time as an undergraduate student at Penn State University where he received his B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science (2006). He earned his M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from Mississippi State University (2011), and his Ph.D. in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia (2015). In recognition of his contributions to professional societies while a graduate student, he was honored to receive the 2015 E. L. Cheatum Distinguished Graduate Student Award from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Andrew has worked for multiple entities during his career in the wildlife field including: Penn State Deer Research Lab, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center, and Ducks Unlimited. He currently serves as a Senior Research Associate and liaison between the Warnell School and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources–Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) where he assists Warnell faculty with development and implementation of WRD-funded research projects. Andrew has previously served in a variety of leadership roles including Treasurer (2012-2013) and President (2013-2014) of the Warnell Graduate Student Association, Chair of the TWS Student Development Working Group (2013-2014), and Student Representative on the TWS Executive Council (2013-2014). Andrew is currently serving as the Chair of the Communications Committee for the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group (2016-present). He is also a member of the Biometrics Working Group, Early Career Professional Working Group, Spatial Ecology and Telemetry Working Group, and Wildlife Damage Working Group. In 2016, Andrew was selected for TWS–Leadership Institute. As a result, he has developed good working relationships with members of TWS Executive Council and staff, and many TWS members throughout the southeastern United States and across the country. These relationships will greatly benefit the Southeastern Section of TWS should he be elected as secretary-treasurer.
# Meetings of Interest

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<th><strong>March 2018</strong></th>
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<td><strong>71st SEAFWA Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;October 29 - November 1, 2017&lt;br&gt;Louisville, KY&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.seafwa.org/conference/">http://www.seafwa.org/conference/</a></td>
<td><strong>North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;March 26-30, 2018&lt;br&gt;Norfolk, VA&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://wildlifemanagement.institute">https://wildlifemanagement.institute</a></td>
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<td><strong>FEBRUARY 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>SEPARC 2018 Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt;February 22-25, 2018&lt;br&gt;Unicoi State Park and Lodge&lt;br&gt;Helen, GA&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://separc.org">http://separc.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>41st Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;February 19-21, 2018&lt;br&gt;Nashville, TN&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.sedsg.com">http://www.sedsg.com</a></td>
<td><strong>SBDN 2018 Joint Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;Joint meeting with SBDN, the Northeast Bat Working Group and Midwest Bat Working Group.&lt;br&gt;March 26-30, 2018&lt;br&gt;Hotel Roanoke&lt;br&gt;Roanoke, VA&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://sbdn.org">https://sbdn.org</a></td>
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Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Membership Application

☐ New    ☐ Renewal    ☐ Change of Address

____ Number of years (multiple year membership)

(please print)

NAME _____________________________

ADDRESS _____________________________

____________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP _______________________

E-MAIL ________________________________

PHONE _______________________________

For new memberships or renewals, please enclose a check for $10.00 per year
(students: $6.00) payable to Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society with this application
and send to:

Dr. Susan Rupp, Secretary-Treasurer
Enviroscales Ecological Consulting, LLC
13117 Bluebird Rd.
Gravette, AR 72736
Phone (479) 340-7018
Email srupp@enviroscales.org