

Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education

<http://www.wildlife.org/illinois/>

Edited by Scott Meister, President-Elect

President's Corner

Bob Clevestine

It seems like the Annual conference was just a week ago but now we're separated by a couple months, changes in some state governments, a major change in the federal legislature, and most recently, federal budget shenanigans. These events have ripple effects by affecting our capacity to do our jobs that require stable funding for student grants, operating funds above base salaries for state participation in federal programs, salaries for staff to administer grants and federal aid back to the states, you name the conservation activity, and chances are it's wired together by a partnership including agencies all buffeted by political winds. While setbacks can be dispiriting at times, it highlights the interdependence of the resource community, the value of a professional network, and the need for creative solutions in a changing bureaucratic environment...kinda like climate change, but faster, in the cubicle world...wildlife professionals need to embody the adaption and resilience we try to promote in the natural world. There will always be the challenges of changing budgets and staff mobility (voluntary or otherwise), but in general we can continue to move the needle to the positive through continued communication and collaboration, fostered by professional society membership.

At the annual conference, I had the chance to sit in on a portion of the Council meeting and was surprised by the membership stats that Ed Thompson (the Society's new Chief Operating Officer) provided on membership. Particularly striking is the erosion of numbers between student and new membership – 76 percent of our overall Society – and professional membership. If my notes are legible, I think Ed indicated that we have only a 25 percent renewal rate among professionals. Accordingly, the Society is examining ways to address our “dropout” rate, and would welcome ideas from you at EThompson@membership.org. I am guilty as most, as it took me a couple years into my

first biologist job before I figured I could afford membership as a professional, and then many years later before I committed to the certification process. Part of the question is that the Society network that helps students through their academic years, doesn't appear to be as valuable during their career years. Indeed, I encounter the "What's in it for me?" question when I try to recruit colleagues. So along that dropout problem, another effort underway is to articulate the Society's "value propositions" to capture what's in it for working professionals. For me as a federal biologist on the Upper Mississippi River, the value has always been clear, the opportunity to periodically break out of my fairly small working world and find out what's going on in the uplands and around the country, to keep current on the state of wildlife science, and just meet great people doing great things in our great state. Society membership also provides the opportunity to participate at your own level of interest as an officer (ahem, time to step up for the Chapter or we're pulling names out of a hat in April) at the Chapter, Section, or parent Society levels, support a variety of policy-influencing efforts like the Conservation Affairs Network, or join one of over 20 working groups focusing on specifics issues in wildlife management.

I diverged from the Annual - student posters at the conference are always a highlight, and you had to move fast to get to them as they rotated out each day. Another highlight of the conference was the IGNITE! session, which I can only describe as sort of a "Science Slam"....pitting the speaker against the clock and their timed 5-minute Powerpoint background...no time for umm or ahh or extemporaneous wandering. Not only were the topics thought-provoking, but so were the discussions that followed the sessions...especially the last one on commercial deer harvest....that truly did ignite the room.

To close, the Annual conference was, as usual, invigorating, enlightening, and humbling to be the company of so many like-minded individuals committed to advancing wildlife conservation. Almost as invigorating as the Annual Chapter meeting, so make your plans for April!

ICTWS Member Publications

Anthonysamy, W. J. B., M. J. Dreslik, M. R. Douglas, N. K. Marioni, and C. A. Phillips. 2014. Reproductive ecology of an endangered turtle in a fragmented landscape. *Copeia* 3:437-446. [doi: 10.1643/CG-13-137](https://doi.org/10.1643/CG-13-137).

Hiestand, S. J., C. K. Nielsen, and F. A. Jiménez. 2014. Modeling potential occurrence of metazoan endoparasites of bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) using verified records. *Folia Parasitologica* 61:401-410.

Sullivan, B. K., J. M. Walker, J. E. Cordes, M. A. Davis, W. J. B. Anthonysamy, K. O. Sullivan, J. R. Sullivan, M. R. Douglas, and M. E. Douglas. 2014. Conservation and management of polytypic species: The little striped whiptail complex (*Aspidoscelis inornata*) as a case study. *Copeia* 3:519-529. [doi: 10.1643/CG-13-140](https://doi.org/10.1643/CG-13-140)

Upcoming Meetings

75th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

February 8-11, 2015

Indianapolis, IN

<http://www.midwestfw.org/>



16th Wildlife Damage Management Conference

March 1-4, 2015

Gatlinburg, TN

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/wdmc2015/>



79th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

March 8-13, 2015

Omaha, NE

<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>



International Urban Wildlife Conference

May 17-20, 2015

Chicago, IL

<http://www.urban-wildlife.org/>



International Urban Wildlife Conference

2015 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society

April 12-14, 2015

Champaign, IL

The 2015 annual meeting of the ICTWS is being planned for Sunday evening through Tuesday noon, April 12-14, in Champaign. Mark your calendars now! The meeting will be hosted by the Illinois Natural History Survey and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, with most events being held at INHS. Information regarding lodging, registration, and a call for presentations will be forthcoming. Suggestions for special sessions, speakers, and themes may be sent to the local committee via Ed Heske at eheske@illinois.edu.



Student Chapter News

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The Wildlife Society and Zoology Club Student Chapter Events

Julie Driebergen, President

Since the Spring 2014 semester, the SIUC Chapter of the Wildlife Society and Zoology Club has had several field trips and volunteer events, and plans to take part in more in the 2014-2015 school year.

In the spring, the club participated in the Green Earth Trash Clean-up Day where we helped rid a public park of trash and items people had left around the grounds and the forest near it. Bags upon bags of trash were collected along with old toys and furniture. Some of our members aided graduate students with their research by helping them trap deer for tagging over a weekend. The club took trips to the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary, where we saw some training sessions and learned about sanctuaries and the often heartbreaking stories of the animals rescued, and the Saint Louis Zoo, where we took a behind the scenes tour of the herpetarium. In the spring (as well as in October 2014), the Wildlife Society and Zoology Club went to Snake Road in Southern Illinois, to watch the biannual snake migration, and to look at other reptiles and amphibians that call the La Rue Pine Hills home.

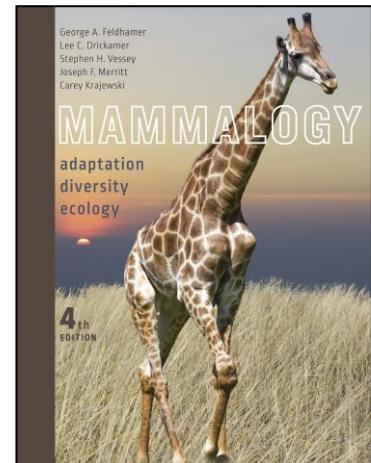
So far this semester, we went hiking and "herping" (looking for reptiles and amphibians) in Giant City, and went to the Saint Louis Zoo. We volunteered at Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, where we did anything that the center needed us to do (such as cleaning containers or enclosures, bringing compost to enclosures, or general maintenance of the center such as raking leaves off of the pathways) to help the animals feel at home while they wait to be released. We also participated in Haunted Hollow at Touch of Nature (a environmental and recreational center near SIU), where we showed children that "creepy crawlies" (i.e. reptiles and arthropods) aren't scary as well as aide in game/haunted hayride set-up and facilitation. Some of our members brought their own pets such as Green Anoles, Axolotls, and Hermit Crabs for children to hold or view at Haunted Hollow. At the end of October, we had a cookout and raffle called Beast Feast where we served meats that aren't your usual hamburgers and chicken (such as deer, beaver, squirrel, and bison to name a few) to raise money for the club. Raffle items included a taxidermy fox, local restaurant and store gift certificates, and a duck decoy. At our meetings we usually have graduate students or people working in the field of wildlife management or zoology speak to us about their experiences and what tips they have to help us achieve our career goals.

For spring semester 2015, we plan on visiting the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary in St. Genevieve, Missouri, and the Wolf Sanctuary in Eureka, Missouri. We plan on more clean-up events, hikes, and speakers.

Notes and Contributions

Mammalogy: Adaptation, Diversity, Ecology

The 4th edition of *Mammalogy: Adaptation, Diversity, Ecology* will be out and available for review in February 2015. Drs. Feldhamer and Drickamer were affiliated with the SIUC Department of Zoology for many years. Dr. Merritt is senior mammalogist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, Dr. Vessey is Program Director of the Animal Behavior Program at the National Science Foundation and Dr. Krajewski is current Chair of the SIUC Department of Zoology.



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reopening Comment Period on Proposed Rule to List the Northern Long-eared Bat as an Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reopening the comment period on their October 2, 2013, proposed rule to list the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act for an additional 30 days. USFWS recently received additional information from state agencies within the range of the species; reopening the comment period will allow the public to review this information and provide comments on our proposed rule in light of that information. Additionally, the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed rule and provide new information, if available. Notice of the comment period re-opening published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2014, and the public comment period will end on December 18, 2014.

For more information on the proposal to list the northern long-eared bat, the extension and the public comment period, please go to <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba>.

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. You may submit a comment by clicking on "Comment Now!" Please ensure that you have found the correct rulemaking before submitting your comment.
2. By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Grant Awards from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program is designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Grant awards are prioritized every year by a committee of educated natural heritage biologists and wildlife biologists and awarded to the extent of donations to the fund. The grant awards have a two year life, so the projects submitted by grant application must be able to be completed within a two year time period. Many of the winning grant proposals have matching funds provided by the local community on larger projects. The grant awards are grouped into three categories, large projects, small projects and wildlife rehabilitators. We receive more applications than we can award at current funding levels, but we hope with increased awareness of the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund we can fund more and more grant projects each year.

The grant application is fairly easy to fill out and is found on our webpage:

http://dnr.state.il.us/grants/Special_Funds/WildGrant.htm

The annual deadline to apply is April 1st, and grants awarded are notified by mail usually by the end of May.

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Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station End-of-Season Report

Vern Kleen, Retired Avian Ecologist

We had an exceptional banding season... we banded 2,670 birds of 79 species, compared to last fall's 1,902 birds of 70 species! (See the report linked [here](#).) Three of the species were first-time captures at our banding station: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Le Conte's Sparrow. The Ash-throated Flycatcher was an exceptionally nice find as it is a southwestern species and only occasionally migrates this far east! We also were able to expose approximately 300 LLCC students and numerous community members to the application of biology methods in the field.

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Future ICTWS Newsletters

Don't wait for solicitation to provide any contributions to the next ICTWS Newsletter! We accept news, awards notices, recent publications, upcoming conferences, or any item that could be valuable to members throughout the entire year. Please email Scott Meister at smeister@dupageforest.org any contributions.

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