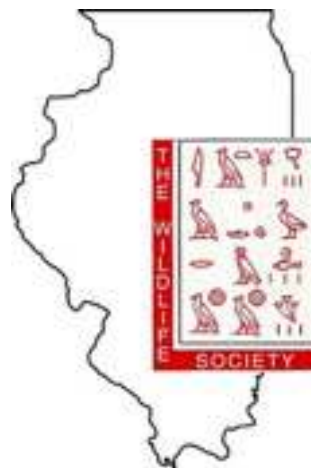


# Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



*Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education*

*Edited by Scott Beckerman, President-Elect*

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## President's Corner

Spring and summer are good months for wildlife managers to get out and look at their properties, whether these are areas we are managing on public land, or maybe private land that we or friends own. If you are a researcher, for many it is also the start of the new field season. I found myself out several times on my own small 40-acre farm, and also on a few public land sites as well. By early June I was noticing quite a drop in pollinator numbers, especially the number of larger butterflies I was used to seeing. A week later I spent a few hours out surveying the farm a little more intensely, and found low numbers of native bees mixed in with the European honey bees from hives next door. Only two pipevine swallowtails were making the rounds on my blooming common milkweed. It was not long afterward that I received a few emails from other biologists and land managers from central Illinois to southern Illinois - basically noting the same thing. It had been dry for a bit which

no doubt explained some of the low numbers, but a long and well-trusted colleague also had noted a real decline over the last 4 years especially. The main focus these days seems to be on pollinators and especially the introduced honey bee, but there are a lot of other invertebrates out there that also seem to be in decline. Reasons? Complex and controversial for certain!

I recently read this article, which helps outline that complexity in some aspects: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep12574>

This article in no way gives all the answers, or perhaps not even many of them. However, as I now slip into "old-codgerhood", I am reminded of some words of wisdom given by other wildlifers that have walked before us. The first is from some guy that owned a now famous shack up in Wisconsin, who said, "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering." The second was advice given to me by one of my early and most important mentors, the late Bill Anderson. Bill told me (and I am sure others that were fortunate enough to have worked for him), "If you take care of the resource, the resource will take care of you." I think he may have intended to mean that in terms of job security, but its deeper meaning is more clear now than ever. It is always good to remember, as we contemplate populations of the more charismatic species, that good resource management starts with the very tiny and usually unseen at the very bottom rungs of life on earth - - sometimes right beneath our feet.

I was also fortunate this spring to spend a couple of days in central Illinois with Dr. Stanley Temple, who is retracing Leopold's old game surveys that he did in the late 20's and published in the early 30's. It was fun to actually hold and thumb through Leopold's personal copy of the finished and compiled Game Survey, and to see some of the drawings and notes that he had made about Illinois. There should be some interesting reading to be had when Dr. Temple finishes his work and compiles his own historical information! The recent stories that he has written about Leopold's old graduate students are also very interesting to read: <https://www.aldoleopold.org/blog/blog/leopold-students/>

Finally for this issue, I am again reminded of the intensely agricultural landscape that many of us find ourselves in the midst of. As our decades of glyphosate use has resulted in herbicide resistance in many agricultural weeds, new GMO crop plants and herbicide recommendations continue to unfold. My April issue of Prairie Farmer magazine was headlined "Dealing with Dicamba". Both Arkansas and our neighbors to the west in Missouri recently [banned the sale and the use of dicamba](#) . A cotton farmer in Arkansas was actually shot and killed over a dicamba application dispute. I have heard from a few biologists and others this summer that were very concerned about dicamba injury to both trees and native plants in Illinois this spring. The easy days of "Roundup Ready" are coming to a close. Much like the issues with insects and pollinators, this issue is both complex and controversial. AND - just as with the other issue, it is important to keep in mind those wise words of some wildlifers that went before us.

*Paul Brewer ICTWS President*



### **Update on Feral Cat TNR Legislation**

Thank you to all members who voiced their opinion and contacted their representatives in Springfield regarding Illinois Senate Bill 641 and feral cats. Despite this bill being opposed by many environmental groups, the bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 47-3-0 and passed in the House by a vote of 73-37-1.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the bill was sent to the Governor for signature. The Governor has 60 calendar days to sign it, or to return it with his veto. If the Governor does nothing, the bill will automatically become a law after the 60-day period.

For Conservation Affairs updates at a national level, please read the CAN [June 2017 newsletter](#).

*Scott Meister*  
*ICTWS CAN Representative*

### **OutdoorIllinois Wildlife Journal - Coming Soon!**

A standard with Illinois outdoor enthusiasts for decades, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' award-winning magazine *OutdoorIllinois* was suspended in 2012 because of the state's budget condition. The demand for timely, quality information never lessened, and based on input from the hunting and trapping community, a reliable source for information on wildlife issues, and hunting and trapping seasons, regulations and techniques, was needed.

As a result, a collaborative effort led by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center has resulted in the development of *OutdoorIllinois Wildlife*

*Journal*. In keeping up with the age of technology, this magazine will be offered free-of-charge and in a digital format.

Scheduled for release August 1, 2017, the magazine will feature quarterly postings of a seasonal nature, with additional, timely information uploaded as appropriate. Articles will be archived in five categories: wildlife, people, land, research and how-to.

Wildlife biologists, managers, educators and researchers interested in contributing to *OutdoorIllinois Wildlife Journal* should contact the editor at [DNR.WildlifeCommunications@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.WildlifeCommunications@illinois.gov) .

Funding for the *OutdoorIllinois Wildlife Journal* website is made available through Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-147-T.

*John Buhnerkempe*  
*ICTWS Member*

### **New Degree in Wildlife Administration and Management at Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

In the 1930s, Aldo Leopold first recognized the need to actively manage wildlife to preserve them for future generations. Thus, he formed the first academic program emphasizing the management of wildlife populations. In the 1940s and 50s, universities across the country began developing curriculum for programs that trained applied ecologists in the science and art of managing wildlife habitat and populations. Over the following 60-70 years, universities developed graduate programs that emphasized applied research of wildlife population dynamics, habitat management, and habitat-wildlife interactions, dramatically increasing our understanding of the information required to properly manage and administer wildlife populations and habitat while simultaneously providing an option for students wishing to pursue advanced degrees in wildlife research or administration.

Despite the acquisition of this tremendous amount of new information, most of those managing lands for wildlife conservation and recreational activities, the actual land managers, continue to be trained with the same Bachelors of Science (B.S.) degree in Wildlife Biology, Wildlife Ecology, Zoology, or a closely related field that was introduced in the 1940s. This is primarily due to the limited number of credit hours required for a B.S. degree. Most B.S. degrees require 120 credit hours, which was probably adequate in the 1940s when information on wildlife management was limited. For example, in the 1940s, most of the information available regarding the management of wildlife could be provided in a 3-credit course entitled “Wildlife Management”, leaving the remaining credit hours available for core curricular courses and other departmental requirements. Alternatively, to provide the same material at our current level of knowledge would require 3-credit courses in waterfowl ecology and management,

game bird management, game mammal management, and conservation biology (possibly 12 credit hours of course work). [The Wildlife Society](#) (TWS) has attempted to address this issue with their current requirements for certification as a wildlife biologist, utilizing an advisory board of both educators and practicing wildlife biologists or land managers. Because of limitations imposed by the 120 credit-hour B.S. degree, however, even TWS' efforts has been less than successful in the eyes of many employers. Some individual students have attempted to address this shortcoming by taking additional credit hours before completion of their B.S. degree, but time to graduation has become an important metric for university program assessment, thus, this practice is discouraged by university administrators. An alternative approach is for the student to acquire a more advanced degree such as a Master of Science (M.S.) in Wildlife Biology or a closely related field. While this more traditional M.S. certainly provides an opportunity for students to acquire a more in-depth understanding of basic ecological principles and greater writing and field experience, even these highly educated graduates often have not acquired the necessary skills required of practicing land managers. For example, in addition to the supplementary course work needed to acquire the tremendous amount of knowledge available since the first B.S. Degrees in Wildlife Management were offered, modern land managers are expected to achieve the difficult task of meeting the needs of multiple special interest groups, often with conflicting expectations. Combined, these two factors leave typical graduates with a B.S. degree unprepared for the day-to-day activities of a modern land manager.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has developed a new program to address these needs by providing the opportunity to increase an individual's biological, ecological, and land management knowledge and skill base above and beyond that acquired with a typical B.S., while simultaneously providing training in human dimensions, conflict resolution, and consensus building, skills critically important for a modern land managers. This program, entitled "Professional Science Master's of Wildlife Administration and Management." is a collaborative effort between SIUC, state and federal agencies, and non-government organizations and is accredited by the [National Professional Science Master's Association](#). The program seeks to provide employers with graduates that not only have adequate knowledge of biological and ecological principles to make appropriate land management decisions but also the social and practical skills to carry out those management actions. This is a non-thesis degree in which students will be required to take courses that provide training in the more practical skills needed by the modern wildlife administrator and land manager in addition to providing the opportunity to complete requirements of The Wildlife Society's Certified Wildlife Biologists. This program will address the lack of time and expertise provided with the 120 credit-hours of coursework required for a typical B.S. degree by requiring 24 credit hours of coursework and a 6 credit hour internship. The degree will culminate in a capstone project consisting of the preparation and submission of a grant proposal supporting habitat restoration activities at the internship site.

More information regarding this new and exciting opportunity can be found at <http://zoology.siu.edu/graduate/research-emphasis/wildlife-admin.php> or by contacting:

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### **ICTWS Member Publications**

#### **From ICTWS member Dr. Eric Schaubert at Southern Illinois University:**

- Mook, J., E. Schaubert, M. Vesny, R. W. Moody, and D. Nolan. 2017. *Phrynosoma cornutum* (Texas horned lizard) Behavior. *Herpetological Review*, 48(1):197-198.
- Koen, E. L., Tosa, M. I., C. K. Nielsen, and E. M. Schaubert. 2017. Does landscape connectivity shape local and global social network structure in white-tailed deer? *PLoS ONE*, 12(3): e0173570. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0173570.
- Tosa, M. I., E. M. Schaubert, and C. K. Nielsen. 2017. Impact of localized removal on white-tailed deer space use and contact rates. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 81:26-37. DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21176.

#### **From ICTWS member Aaron Yetter at the INHS Forbes Lab:**

- Hagy, H.M., J.D. Stafford, R.V. Smith, C.S. Hine, A.P. Yetter, C. Whelan, and M.M. Horath. 2017. Opportunity costs influence food selection and giving-up density of dabbling ducks. *Journal of Avian Biology* DOI: 10.1111/jav.01275.
- Hagy, H.M., C.S. Hine, M.M. Horath, A.P. Yetter, R.V. Smith, and J.D. Stafford. 2017. Waterbird response indicates floodplain wetland restoration. *Hydrobiologia* DOI: 10.1007/s10750-016-3004-3.

Hagy, H.M., M.M. Horath, A.P. Yetter, C.S. Hine, and R.V. Smith. 2017. Evaluating tradeoffs between sanctuary for migrating waterbirds and recreational opportunities in a restored wetland complex. *Hydrobiologia* DOI:10.1007/s10750-016-2711-0.

Hine, C.S., H.M. Hagy, M.M. Horath, A.P. Yetter, R.V. Smith, and J.D. Stafford. 2017. Response of aquatic vegetation communities and other wetland cover types to floodplain restoration at Emiquon Preserve. *Hydrobiologia* DOI: 10.1007/s10750-016-2893-5.

VonBank, J.A., A.F. Casper, A.P. Yetter, and H.M. Hagy. 2017. Evaluating a rapid aerial survey for floating-leaved aquatic vegetation. *Wetlands*. DOI 10.1007/s13157-017-0910-8.



## **Upcoming Meetings**

Immediate National Past-President Gary Potts sends reminders of these upcoming and important meetings, and reminds us that the Midwest Conference is fairly close this year in Milwaukee!

### **The 24th TWS Annual Conference**

September 23-27, Albuquerque, NM

<http://twsconference.org>

### **78th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**

January 28-31, 2018, Milwaukee, WI

<http://midwestfw.org>



## **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 Beckerman at [sc.Beckerman@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:sc.Beckerman@aphis.usda.gov) contributions.

## **Student Chapter Information**

### ***Contacts:***

#### **Eastern Illinois University**

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#### **Southern Illinois University**

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#### **Western Illinois University**

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### ***Resources***

The Wildlife Society staff and Council actively encourage the success of student chapters and provide ongoing assistance to them. For more information on resources available to student chapters including annual conclaves, the TWS Leadership Institute, Career Development and Job Board visit: <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/>

For information on student travel grants to attend next year's ICTWS meeting in Champaign-Urbana, contact President Paul Brewer at [fireboss@mchsi.com](mailto:fireboss@mchsi.com) .



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## **ICTWS Executive Board**

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