

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

Where did this summer go? Everything since the Annual Meeting has been a blur. There are a slew of emerging issues, initiatives, and institutional arrangements in response to the initiatives to respond to the issues.....how's that for a short thought cycle? The thing is, as all this activity has ramped up, our numbers are ramped down and we're expected to be in 3 places at any one time...you know the drill: sitting in a meeting with the laptop and a cell phone...I meant tablet and a smart phone...so you can be live at the meeting, virtual on line with another activity, and by phone or text to respond in real time to another demand. In spite of the whirlwind, it's heartening to see that we as a community are evolving quickly to deal with new challenges facing wildlife and our natural heritage....I'd like to think we're honoring our past while embracing the future.

Speaking of honoring the past - back to the Annual Meeting – what an awesome panel discussion we had with the “temporal spectrum” of members (avoiding the Old-Timers' Panel moniker), from recounting the founding of the chapter to current challenges in conservation. One of our elder statesmen said “We brought back deer, geese, and turkeys, now you're stuck with them” which brought a lot of laughs, but under that self-effacing statement is the very real fact that our predecessors managed to rescue key components of our wildlife heritage from the brink. They faced off the Clean Farming Era. Some of them did it in the age of the slide rule, between party telephone lines and the computer, and turned the corner on their populations before we experienced the exquisite joy of punch card models. They started key long term data sets. They were working way before the National Environmental Policy Act or the Endangered Species Act. They engaged the non-toxic shot debate. Other panelists working in the computer age have seen huge technological advances in a short time

that provide the analytic power to analyze those datasets initiated back in the day. The closing food for thought discussion challenged the next generation to continue to investigate the natural world, to seek the answers that sound wildlife science can provide, and to pursue our own legacies.

Many, many, thanks are due to our plenary session panelists, not only for their gracious participation in the discussion, but also for their career contributions to wildlife and the wildlife management profession.

Thank you to Stan Etter, Larry David, John Roseberry, Bob Montgomery, Norman Emerick, Steve Havera, Tom Micetich, Paul Brewer and Bob Bluett....and special thanks to Stan and Steve for organizing the panel.

Upcoming Meetings

38th Annual Midwest Deer & Wild Turkey Study Group Meeting

September 9-12, 2014

Potosi, MO

http://mdwtsg.org/meeting_details.html



Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting

September 21-25, 2014

St. Louis, MO

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



American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting joint with 84th Cooper Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

September 23-27, 2014

Estes Park, CO

<https://www.birdmeetings.org/aoucossco2014/default.asp>



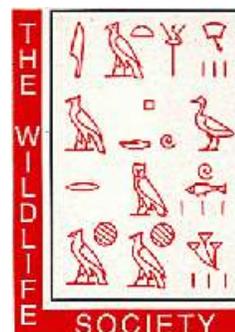
The American
Ornithologists' Union

The Wildlife Society 21st Annual Conference

October 24-30, 2014

Pittsburg, PA

<http://wildlifesociety.org/>



SAVE THE DATE:

2015 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the Wildlife Society

April 12-14, 2015

Champaign, IL

DRAFT 2014 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Please review for accuracy and provide edits to Luke Garver (luke.garver@illinois.gov) prior to approval at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report 2013/2014

Our beginning balance was \$9,998.79; income was \$6823.41 and total expenditures were \$6,725.12. Our ending balance in 2013 was \$10,097.08.

Our total expenditures so far (4/14/2014) in 2014 have been \$25 and income has totaled \$4,216.39. Current balance for all assets is \$14,288.47.

Approved by Exec Board. An audit committee will be chosen to review financial records.

Election Results

Councilperson-at-large: Scott Beckerman

President Elect: Scott Meister

Eric mentioned making bylaw changes made to accommodate online voting rather than restricted to paper ballots.

Student Chapter

Eric will be covering Past President duties as facilitator between student and state chapters. He will also be serving as Student Chapter Advisor for SIU and will try to increase communication between other student chapters in the state.

2015 Meeting

Exec Board discussed the site of next meeting. If we stick with traditional rotation, it will be in northern Illinois. Sites including Rockford, Moline, Chicago, and sites with college chapters were proposed.

Voting Bylaws

For the previous election we couldn't get more than 1 candidate for some positions. Current bylaws say we must have a slate consisting of "2 candidates". It was suggested to change wording to "at least 2" to allow for more. Bylaws also mention "written ballots". We should change wording to allow for "online voting". Will consult national chapter examples on the subject for reference on how to word the proposed changes.

Conservation Affairs Committee

Eric explained it was an Initiative by Parent Chapter to coordinate with State Chapters and create a human resources database of go-to people on various issues related to policy. Gary Potts further explained one goal is to develop local position statements modeled after the national position statements. Another goal is really to get more people involved in policy. All agreed it is a great avenue and something we should promote within our chapter.

Eric brought up that we need to generate interest for Exec Board positions. It is current exec board's job to make an effort to search for potential candidates. It could help to start the search even earlier. Bob inquired about nominating committee that has traditionally had alternating terms for continuity. We will discuss nominating committee at Chapter Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT 2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Please review for accuracy and provide edits to Luke Garver (luke.garver@illinois.gov) prior to approval at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Last year's Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

2013/2014 –

Our beginning balance was \$9,998.79; income was \$6823.41 and total expenditures were \$6,725.12. Our ending balance in 2013 was \$10,097.08.

Our total expenditures so far (4/14/2014) in 2014 have been \$25 and income has totaled \$4,216.39. Current balance for all assets is \$14,288.47.

Audit committee had reviewed and approved of the report.

Treasurer's Report was approved by the Chapter.

Nominating Committee

Gary Potts encouraged anyone who has not run for a position to consider it.

Eric thanked all those that ran and named the winning candidates:

- Councilperson-at-Large: Scott Beckerman
- President Elect: Scott Meister

Student Chapter Report, SIU Student Chapter Representative Eva Kwiatek

Topics covered:

- Herpetology Day
- Crab Orchard Cleanup Day
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Work Day
- Halloween Education Event
- Darwin Week
- Green Earth Trash Cleanup
- Trail Maintenance at Garden of the Gods

Parent Chapter Report, Parent Chapter VP, Gary Potts

- Gary spoke on his efforts to switch the Midwest Section meeting to January and February to improve student attendance. Gary served on the hiring committee that hired Ken Williams. Williams strives to improve budget situation and has already seen improvement. Gary served on committees involving bylaws changes and strategic planning.
- Currently there are low numbers subscribing to TWS publications, particularly The Wildlife Society Bulletin. Gary encouraged more people to subscribe. Membership numbers are currently stable but we will soon see numbers dip due to retirements.
- Ken Williams has hired great new staff who are skilled marketers. Gov't Affairs reps, Laura Bies and Keith Norris do a great job dealing with congress and agency budgets. They are great at collaborating with other agencies on various topics.

- At the Midwest Annual Meeting Gary met with fisheries representatives several times. It has been proposed that TWS have joint meeting in 2017 with American Fisheries Society in Tampa, FL.
- Gary encouraged IL membership to reference National position statements when developing statements on local issues.

Old Business, Eric Schauber

- We have been in violation of our by-laws the last 2 years for Exec Board voting. Last year we had 1 candidate for a position and this year 3. A by-laws change was proposed to change by-law wording to allow for “at least” 2 candidates.
- Randy Smith motioned to accept the changes. Tom Micetich second. Chapter approved motion. Proposal will be passed on to Parent Chapter to be approved.

Position Statement on Feral Swine, Gary Potts and Scott Beckerman

The Parent Society position statement was completed as a national viewpoint. Gary and Scott are using the national statement as a model to tailor one to fit specifically to the issue in Illinois and will submit it to the Chapter for approval when completed.

Emiquon/Illinois River Connectivity Project, Steve Havera

TNC owns the wetland areas of Emiquon known as Thompson and Flag lakes that currently function independently of the Illinois River. Native flora and waterbird communities are very diverse in the area. There are very few issues with sedimentation and contaminants that are typically associated with the Illinois River and its floodplain wetlands. TNC is interested in experimenting with connectivity of Emiquon to the Illinois River to mimic natural and historic wetland hydrology and to assist with river function downstream. They would do this by installing a structure that would be managed to control water levels. Steve and many others believe this structure will do little to benefit the river and that it will severely degrade the habitat quality of Emiquon. In 2006 ICTWS drafted a position statement on floodplain connectivity which has been passed by the Parent Chapter. He would like to pass this statement, along with 5 other National Chapter position statements, to the TNC and Army Corps of Engineers who are currently accepting open comment on the issue.

Professional Award of Merit, Gary Potts

Stan Etter, Steve Havera, and Gary served on PAM committee. Gary reviewed the current wording for requirements of the Award. Stan put together a list of amendments to the requirements:

- voting members in good standing (TWS members with current dues paid for 5 years and attendees of 2 annual meetings)
- letters of nomination coming from voting members in good standing for 3 years
- restricted to living conservationists who are active in Illinois
- award given only in years when there is a truly deserving candidate
- award members should be implemented on rotating 3 year terms, rotated to provide continuity
- There was discussion on our ability to verify the 5 year requirement, and that it would be difficult particularly with the electronic record-keeping system. It was agreed that with a combination of good record keeping and the sharp memories of nominating committee, the Chapter will be able to verify the requirement.
- The amendments were accepted as presented by the committee.

New Business

- 2015 Meeting, Eric Schaubert
Traditionally we have rotated locations of meetings, but have mostly stayed in Central IL over the past few years. The Exec Board briefly discussed moving it to Northern IL, but came to no firm decisions. It was discussed that we should try to stay close to our Student Affiliates and that Northern IL/Chicago is expensive. Several members expressed support for Champaign and it was decided that we will look further into having it there.
 - Credit Card
 - Randy Smith brought up that with more members being interested in paying dues or meeting fees online, it might be in the Chapter's best interest to look into getting a credit card account.
 - Luke Garver mentioned that PayPal could be another avenue to allow for electronic transfer of funds and can be set up with an email and bank account.
 - Ed Zwicker cautioned the Chapter to be aware of any fees associated with credit cards and electronic payments.
 - Pass the Gavel
Eric Schaubert passed the honor and responsibility of President to Bob Clevestine. Bob mentioned that it was a tremendous honor to be named President (despite the dubious circumstances to which he arrived at the position). He honored the members of the "Old Timer's Panel" and will carry out his duties "standing on the shoulders of giants."
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ICTWS Member Publications

Anthonyamy, W. J. B., M. J. Dreslik, D. Mauger, and C. A. Phillips. A Preliminary Assessment of Habitat Partitioning in a Freshwater Turtle Community at an Isolated Preserve. *Copeia* 2014(2):269-278. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1643/CE-13-100>

Hagy, H. M., A. P. Yetter, K. W. Stodola, M. M. Horath, C. S. Hine, M. P. Ward, T. J. Benson, R. V. Smith, and J. D. Stafford. 2014. Stopover Duration of Mallards During Autumn in the Illinois River Valley. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78(4):747–752; [DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.708](https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.708)

Hiestand, S. J., C. K. Nielsen, and F. A. Jiménez. 2014. Epizootic and zoonotic helminths of the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) in Illinois and a comparison of helminth component communities across the American Midwest. *Parasite* 21, [DOI: 10.1051/parasite/2014005](https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2014005).

Jooste, E., C. K. Nielsen, and D. Chen. 2014. Using terrestrial mammalian carnivores for global contaminant modeling. *Integrative Environmental Assessment and Management* 10:312-314; [DOI: 10.1002/ieam.1514](https://doi.org/10.1002/ieam.1514).

Smith, J. B., C. K. Nielsen, and E. C. Hellgren. 2014. Illinois resident attitudes toward recolonizing large carnivores. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78(5): 930-943; [DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.718](https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.718).

Notes and Contributions

Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station End-of-Season Report Vern Kleen, Retired Avian Ecologist

The LLCC-BBS has been in operation for four seasons (two each for fall and spring) and will continue (indefinitely) in the years ahead. A copy of the Spring 2014 report can be accessed [here](#). Support for the station continues to grow and a number of undergrad students at Lincoln Land Community College and "wildlife" grad students at the University of Illinois at Springfield are actively participating at the station -- including individual training in bird identification and banding. The LLCC BBS is operated under the auspices of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders, an IRS-approved, charitable, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

ICTWS Fall Newsletter

Don't wait for solicitation to provide any contributions to the Fall 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 by November 3, 2014.

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