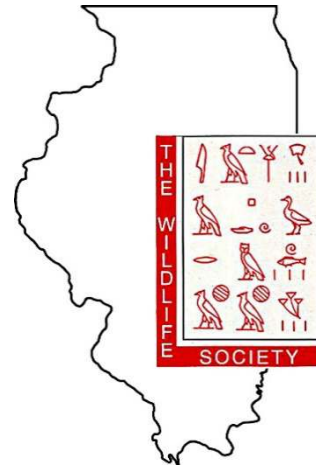


# Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



*Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education*

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

*Edited by Heath Hagy, President-Elect*

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## **President's Corner**

My term as Chapter President is here, and I would like to express how excited I am to actively participate with this dedicated group of professionals and students. I was first exposed to The Wildlife Society and the Illinois Chapter as a graduate student at Southern Illinois University 15 years ago. To be honest, pursuing a degree in natural resources or wildlife management in Illinois was not my first choice. I did not associate Illinois to be a state known for its wildlife resources. Even from my undergraduate experience at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, there was clearly an emphasis on the premiere agricultural conditions abundant throughout the state. However, it did not take long for my perceptions to change.

During my first years of exposure to the Chapter, I anticipated attending future annual meetings to continue to learn of the diversity of wildlife resources and professions in Illinois. I enjoyed the welcome atmosphere that so many chapter members brought forth. I valued the networking interactions that pursued after. I appreciated learning about ongoing wildlife research and management through the presentations at the meetings. I enjoyed learning that Illinois does have great wildlife resources.

These resources are still diverse and are growing stronger because of the efforts of so many of our chapter members. Within the last months, I have read a story where Aaron Yetter explained the return of the bald eagle population in Illinois to thousands of readers of the Chicago Tribune. I have heard Jeff Walk speak during a national CBS broadcast on the return of bison to Nachusa Grasslands. Later this year, Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie is also scheduled to introduce bison. Peregrine falcon, rice rat, and golden mouse populations have recovered and were removed from the Illinois Endangered and Threatened species list earlier this year. These examples are a few successes that have stemmed from the efforts of so many knowledgeable and devoted people. In addition to the biological resources, Illinois does have strong wildlife professionals.

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The enthusiasm we hold for our profession can easily be deflated when budget crises threaten key programs or when wildlife management decisions are based on politics rather than research or knowledge. We have entered this field because of the importance with which we personally view wildlife and natural resources. We need to remember the passion we hold and push forward when decisions do not go our way. We need to remember our love of the outdoors and speak with enthusiasm about Illinois' great natural resources when given the chance. We are all educators to those with whom we speak and we need to invoke our dedication while educating the public, informing policy makers, and recruiting young professionals, which in turn will keep our resources abundant, well-managed, and our profession respected.

Many of you have known for years that Illinois is a great state for wildlife and has dedicated leaders in this field. I still anticipate our annual meetings and this year particularly, I look forward to continuing to learn about the great work that is accomplished by our members, to advance wildlife conservation, to facilitate professional exchange of ideas, and to keep Illinois a state known for its wildlife resources.

Scott Meister  
ICTWS President

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### **ICTWS Member Publications**

- Meyer, N., H.J. Esser, R. Moreno, F. van Langevelde, Y. Liefing, D.R. Oller, C. B.F. Vogels, A.D. Carver, C.K. Nielsen, and P.A. Jansen. 2015. An assessment of the terrestrial mammal communities in forest of Central Panama, using camera-trap surveys. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 26:28-35.
- Guiden, P.W., D.L. Gorchov, C.K. Nielsen, and E.M. Schaub. 2015. Seed dispersal of an invasive shrub by white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*. *Plant Biology*, DOI 10.1007/s11258-015-0480-x.
- Urbanek, R.E., C.K. Nielsen, M.A. Davenport, and B.D. Woodson. 2015. Perceived and desired outcomes of suburban deer management methods. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 79:647-661.
- Hayes, S.J., E.J. Holzmueller, and C.K. Nielsen. 2015. Bot fly (Cuterebrid) prevalence and intensity in southern Illinois *Peromyscus* species and a comparison to the literature. *Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science* 108:1-3.
- Lesmeister, D.B., C.K. Nielsen, E.M. Schaub, and E. . Hellgren. 2015. Spatial and temporal structure of a mesocarnivore guild in Midwestern North America. *Wildlife Monographs* 191.
- Berkman, L. K., C. K. Nielsen, C.L. Roy, and E.J. Heist. 2015. Comparative genetic structure of sympatric leporids in southern Illinois. *Journal of Mammalogy* 96:552-563.
- Barker, D.G., T.M. Barker, M.A. Davis, and G.W. Schuett. A review of the systematics and taxonomy of Pythonidae: An ancient serpent lineage. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/zoj.12267>
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Davis, M.D., M.R. Douglas, C.T. Webb, M.L. Collyer, A.T. Holycross, C.W. Painter, and M.E. Douglas.  
Nowhere to go but up: impacts of climate change on demographics of a short-range endemic (*Crotalus willardi obscurus*) in the Sky-islands of Southwestern North America. PLoS ONE (doi pending)

Hagy, H.M., and R. M. Kaminski. 2015. Determination of foraging thresholds and effects of application on energetic carrying capacity for waterfowl. PLoS ONE 10(3): e0118349.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0118349.

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## **Congratulations!**

- Dr. Clay Nielsen was awarded the 2014-15 Outstanding Scholar Award in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University
- Ph.D. candidates Matt Springer (first prize) and Justin Shew (second prize) won the student presentation awards at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Matt and Justin are advised by Dr. Clay Nielsen at the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University.
- Mark Davis of the Illinois Natural History Survey for co-authoring a manuscript recognized as Copeia's Best Paper in Herpetology for 2014.
- The Resilient Coastal Wetlands initiative of the Upper Mississippi and Great Lake Landscape Conservation Cooperative was recognized by the Obama Administration as one of the first four Resilient Lands and Waters Initiatives. <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/3CD69AE6209812EB85257E2E00527EE>

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Governor's Conference On the Management of the Illinois River System**

October 27 – 29, 2015, Peoria, Illinois

The Illinois River: A Watershed Partnership

<http://go.illinois.edu/ILRiverConference>

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society**

17–21 October 2015, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

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

### **7<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM**

1-5 February 2016, Westin Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland

<http://northamericanducksymposium.org/>

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## **Student Chapter Corner**

### *Contacts*

#### Eastern Illinois University

Advisors: Jill Deppe, [jldeppe@eiu.edu](mailto:jldeppe@eiu.edu)

President: Clinton Morgeson

#### Southern Illinois University

Advisor: Eric Schaubert, [schauber@siu.edu](mailto:schauber@siu.edu)

President: Julie Driebergen

Webpage: <http://wildlifezoology.rso.siu.edu/>

#### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisors: Steve Buck, [sbuck@illinois.edu](mailto:sbuck@illinois.edu)

Bob Schooley, [schooley@illinois.edu](mailto:schooley@illinois.edu)

President: Isha Robertson

#### Western Illinois University - Inactive

Advisors: Chris Jacques, [CN-Jacques@wiu.edu](mailto:CN-Jacques@wiu.edu)

### *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/>

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## **Notes and Contributions**

### **The Illinois River Reaches Second Highest Crest on Record**

The Illinois River managed to exceed the long-term record crest set in 1943 (27.1 ft) for the second time in three years. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the river crested at 27.2 ft on the Havana, IL river gauge, which is just below the April 2013 crest of nearly 27.8 ft. For comparison, the historic normal stage during July is less than 5 ft and flood stage is 14 ft. Moreover, the 2015 flood occurred during the growing season and by the time the river drops below flood stage, many areas will have been under water for almost two months. Long-duration and late floods during the growing season negatively affect habitat conditions for most migrating waterbirds, with the exception of August-migrating shorebirds and September-migrating teal which will likely benefit from the mudflats and remaining shallow wetlands in agricultural fields as the water recede.

### **Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)**

The Lincoln Land Community College bird banding station (LLCC BBS), which was initiated in September, 2012, began its sixth overall season and third spring season of operations on Monday, 23 March 2015. The purposes

established for the station are to use bird banding as a tool to: a) document, quantify and monitor bird populations that permanently live in or visit the site during the spring and fall migratory seasons, and b) provide educational opportunities for students, staff and others interested in learning more about birds and their environments. The 2015 spring season was rather cool and damp and migrant birds were slow to arrive and quick to depart; in fact, several expected species were neither caught nor seen all spring. The final tally for this spring's operations was 1,064 birds of 75 species banded on 49 days with an average of 22 newly banded birds per day and 0.22 newly banded birds per net hour. Another 193 birds were captured as returns (birds that had been banded 90 or more days earlier, several of which had been banded in the fall of 2012—the first season of operation) and 416 as repeats (recaptured within 90 days of the banding date; several were captured from two to six times). Seven new species were banded at the station this spring: a White-eyed Vireo, a Tree Swallow, a Northern Rough-winged Swallow, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds, a Worm-eating Warbler, a Henslow's Sparrow, and an Orchard Oriole. Other noteworthy captures were a first year male Blue Grosbeak and several Savannah Sparrows. One of the benefits of our banding operations is to learn that some of our banded birds have been captured elsewhere. That was the case for Swamp Sparrow 2511-49325; it was caught and released at the Sand Bluff Banding Station northwest of Rockford, IL, on 3 May (this year); it had been banded here on 14 October 2013. The LLCC BBS is scheduled to resume this fall from about 24 August to mid-November.

— Vernon Kleen (Bander/Coordinator) & Anthony Rothering (LLCC Staff Assistant)

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## **ICTWS Executive Board**

Scott Meister, President  
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County  
[smeister@dupageforest.org](mailto:smeister@dupageforest.org)  
(630) 933-7081

John Griesbaum, Secretary/Treasurer  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
[john.griesbaum@illinois.gov](mailto:john.griesbaum@illinois.gov)  
(217) 421-0900

Heath Hagy, President-Elect  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
[hhagy@illinois.edu](mailto:hhagy@illinois.edu)  
(309) 543-3950

Scott Beckerman, Councilperson-at-Large  
USDA – APHIS – Wildlife Services  
[Sc.Beckerman@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Sc.Beckerman@aphis.usda.gov)  
(217) 241-5726

Bob Clevestine, Past President  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
[Robert.Clevestine@fws.gov](mailto:Robert.Clevestine@fws.gov)  
(309) 757-5800 ext 205  
Mobile (309) 798-7951

Stefanie Fitzsimons, Councilperson-at-Large  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
[Stefanie.Fitzsimons@Illinois.gov](mailto:Stefanie.Fitzsimons@Illinois.gov)  
(815) 675-2386 ext 215

## **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 Heath Hagy at [hhagy@illinois.edu](mailto:hhagy@illinois.edu) any contributions. Previous editions of our Newsletter are available on our website: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/illinois/>. *Thanks to Michelle Horath for maintaining the site!*