



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Winter 2017 Volume 65

## CMPS Officers

### **President:**

Andrea Orabona

### **Vice-President:**

Jim Hays

### **President-Elect:**

Adam Ahlers

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Laurel Badura

### **TWS Council Representative:**

Bob Lanka

### **Members At-large:**

Adam Behney

Shelly Deisch

Stephanie Ferrero

Krysten Zummo-Strong

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Aleshia Fremgen

## Message from the President

Participation, diversification, and inclusion. This was a resounding theme at the 2017 24th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Albuquerque, NM. Participation in our professional organization is important on so many levels, for our voices and actions are stronger together. Diversification and inclusion are equally important, for it takes the knowledge, experiences, and expertise of folks with varied backgrounds to inform the actions that benefit wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wild places.

I'd like to sincerely thank the CMPS Executive Board, Section, and partners for believing in the importance of my participation in TWS's Annual Conference! Without financial assistance, my attendance would not have been possible. After nearly a week in Albuquerque, I left feeling both energized and exhausted from the various plenary sessions, presentations, posters, socials, quiz bowl rounds, and conversations, as well as a fabulous reunion with long-time friends and colleagues. Here, I've included a few photographs from the conference that represent some of the highlights. Now, think Cleveland in 2018!

Remember to reach out, speak out, and work together for the greater good, and always let your passion for the resource show!

*~Andrea Orabona, CMPS President*

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
CMPS Business	3
TWS Council Update	9
Chapter Updates	12
Upcoming Events	16
CMPS Annual Business Meeting Minutes	18
CMPS Directory	21



<http://wildlife.org/cmp>



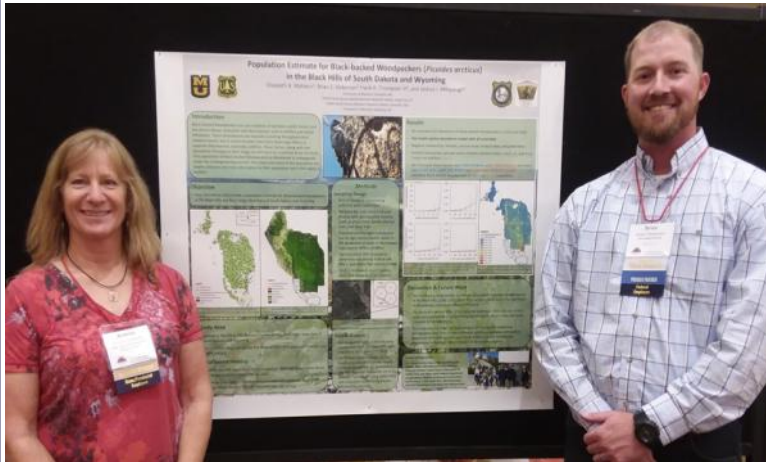
CMPS Representative to TWS Council Bob Lanka (WY), CMPS President Andrea Orabona (WY), and TWS Vice President Gary White (CO) take a moment to visit between conference sessions.



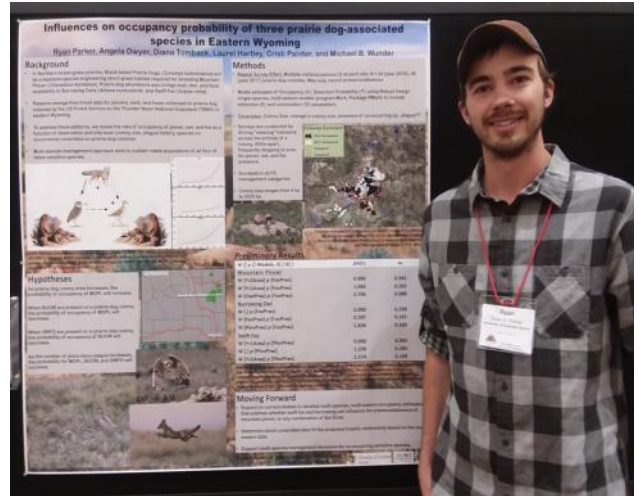
CMPS President Andrea Orabona (WY), President-Elect Adam Ahlers (KS), and Member At-large Krysten Zummo-Strong (CO) attended the Sections and Chapters Collaboration Meeting at TWS's Annual Conference.

## Section Business

### CMPS at The Wildlife Society's 24th Annual Conference in Albuquerque



During the Poster Session, CMPS President Andrea Orabona discussed a cooperative project on Black-backed Woodpeckers in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming with US Forest Service Biologist Brian Dickerson.



Ryan Parker (CO) presented his thesis work on Thunder Basin National Grasslands during the Poster Session at the Annual Conference. Ryan and CMPS President Andrea Orabona are working with other partners on a Burrowing Owl project on Thunder Basin.



The Quiz Bowl was as popular and challenging as ever, with 25 teams competing for the championship title! The University of Georgia (red t-shirts) successfully defended their title from 2016, winning the final match against Purdue University (yellow t-shirts). CMPS President Andrea Orabona helped judge several Quiz Bowl rounds during the 2-day event.



The Quiz Bowl Committee celebrated a successful competition, and began brainstorming ideas for next year's Quiz Bowl in Cleveland, Ohio.



Visiting with old friends is always a rewarding benefit of attending TWS's annual affair.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 3

## Section Business

CMPS and NETWS Conference Save the Date

Save the Date

for the

## Nebraska TWS & CMPS TWS Conference

February 28 – March 2, 2018

Holiday Inn Conference Center

Kearney, Nebraska

Grassland Ecology and Conservation in an Altered Landscape

### Tentative schedule

Wednesday morning: Board meetings

Wednesday at 1:00 PM: Plenary session

Wednesday afternoon: Presentations and business meetings of the State Chapter and Section

Wednesday evening: Dinner provided

Thursday: Presentations and business meetings of the State Chapter and Section

Thursday evening: Dinner provided with the annual auction fundraiser

Friday: Prescribed fire student/professional workshop hosted by the Nebraska Chapter TWS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the government rate of \$93/night at the Holiday Inn.

Any unreserved rooms in that block at the end of January will be let go for other reservations.

Thank you all for your participation in the various levels of TWS! We hope to see you there!



Photograph credit: University of Nebraska–Lincoln

## Section Business

### CMPS and NETWS Conference—Call for Papers and Posters



#### *- Call for Papers and Posters -*

2018 - Annual Meeting

Kearney, NE

The Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NETWS) will host the annual meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section in Kearney, NE at the Holiday Inn, February 28-March 2, 2018. The theme for the meeting is "*Grassland Ecology, Conservation in an Altered Landscape*". The meeting will include oral presentations, a student poster competition, business meetings, banquet, and auction. Prescribed Fire will be the topic of a student-professional workshop hosted by NETWS on March 2, 2018.

The Program Committee is now accepting abstracts for presentations pertaining to this theme (first consideration) and other topics in all areas of wildlife ecology and conservation. Abstracts for the student poster competition are also being accepted at this time.

The submitted abstracts should include the corresponding author with contact information, the title, and abstract text. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words. **Please be sure to indicate whether you want to be considered for a presentation, poster, or both.**

**The deadline for submission of all abstracts is December 15, 2017.** Please submit abstracts electronically to Eric Zach, [eric.zach@nebraska.gov](mailto:eric.zach@nebraska.gov). All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the end of January. More information concerning this meeting and registration will be posted at <http://wildlife.org/nebraska/> and <http://wildlife.org/cmp/>.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 5

## **Section Business**

### **CMPS Awards—Call for Nominations**

Central Mountains and Plains Section Awards nominations due **December 15, 2017!**

It's not too early to be thinking about nominations for our two annual Section awards! The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society offers two awards annually to honor the accomplishments of worthy groups or individuals. The Professional Award and the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award may be given in recognition of outstanding contributions towards Wildlife Conservation or Wildlife Education within the Section. Criteria and instructions for submission of nominations are below.

**CMPS Professional Award**—An award known as THE PROFESSIONAL AWARD may be presented annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee to an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution towards furthering the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section.

#### **CRITERIA:**

1. Individual must be member of state, regional, or national affiliate of The Wildlife Society in good standing.
2. Individual must have completed at least one unique, important contribution towards wildlife conservation or wildlife conservation education within the Central Mountains and Plains Section coverage area.
3. The following basic information about the nominee must be provided: name, address, telephone, email, and employer in addition to the name, address, and contact information of the nominating individual.
4. Nominating person must submit one letter of nomination and at least one letter of support for the nomination. The letter of nomination should include information on the nominee's personal, educational, and professional background; details regarding the individual's involvement in wildlife conservation; and a description of their outstanding efforts. Other supporting information is preferred but not required, for example resume or CV, published papers, environmental activities, etc.

**CMPS Citizen's Award**—The Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award may be presented annually to lay individuals or groups that have made an outstanding contribution towards enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section.

#### **CRITERIA:**

1. Individual or group has demonstrated outstanding achievement or effort towards conservation of wildlife or wildlife education within geographic coverage area of the Central Mountains and Plains Section.
2. Individual(s) need not be a member of The Wildlife Society. Individual(s) need not be an established wildlife professional.
3. The following basic information about the nominee(s) must be provided: name, address, telephone, and email, in addition to the name, address, and contact information of the nominating individual.
4. Nominating person must submit one letter of nomination and at least one letter of support for the nomination. The letter of nomination should include information on the individual(s) background, details regarding the individual(s) involvement in wildlife conservation, and a description of their outstanding efforts. Other supporting information is preferred but not required, for example resume or CV, photographs, newspaper or magazine articles, etc.

Please give some thought to potential candidates. **Nominations should be e-mailed to CMPS Vice-President, Jim Hays ([jim\\_hays@tnc.org](mailto:jim_hays@tnc.org)) and must be received by **December 15, 2017**, to be considered.**



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 6

## **Section Business**

### **TWS Distinguished Service Award**

*Submitted by Gary C. White, Colorado TWS*

How about taking the time to reward a long-term, hard-working member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section? The Distinguished Service Award is designed precisely for such a member. CMPS has not nominated anyone for this award for the last 2 years. Previous winners were Del Benson from Colorado, Carl Wolfe from Nebraska, and Bob Wood from Kansas. You have until April 1, 2018 to get a nomination to CMPS President Andrea Orabona ([andrea.orabona@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.orabona@wyo.gov)), and she will distribute the nomination to the CMPS Executive Board for their consideration. Given that the Executive Board approves the nomination, it is then forwarded to TWS, and would be awarded at TWS's Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in 2018.

The following information is taken directly from The Wildlife Society website to get you thinking. Make yourself feel good by taking the time to nominate a deserving professional.

The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award (TWSDSA) is designed to recognize TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on membership longevity and TWS service.

The award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers in a variety of ways to further the mission of the Society but have not been previously recognized with other TWS awards. The nominee should be someone who is/was "always there" and could be counted on to serve the Chapter, Section, or parent Society.

The recipient will be presented with an award lapel pin and certificate at the TWS Annual Conference.

This award is not intended to continue to recognize members that have already received other TWS awards. Only one Distinguished Service Award will be awarded per Section per year.

#### **Award Criteria**

Nominees must have been a parent Society member for at least 20 years. If membership is not continuous, evidence of membership longevity must be provided. The intent is to recognize candidates while they are still active TWS members.

Nominees must have served TWS in such a way that furthers the goals of TWS. Examples of service are Chapter, Section, or parent Society Board member or Officer; served in a significant manner to keep a Chapter active or to reactivate a Chapter; consistent attendance of, at least, Chapter meetings; dependable member to support Chapter, Section, and/or international activities such as review of EIS reports, positions statements, etc.; Chapter, Section, parent, or international committee chairperson or member; assist or organize Chapter, Section, or international conferences or special meetings, programs, training seminars, etc.; as appropriate, testify at hearings, etc. Basically, a collective commitment to TWS goals and activities.

## Section Business

### TWS Distinguished Service Award (continued)

#### Nomination Procedures

Any TWS member or members, Chapter, Section, or Working Group may submit nominations or self-nomination.

Nomination should include:

Name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and affiliation of nominee

A one-page nomination statement that clearly outlines the nominee's contributions to The Wildlife Society

Nominee's curriculum vita

Signed statements of endorsement from three endorsers

Submit these materials via email to the executive committee of the nominee's section **as a single PDF file** by **April 1, 2018 at 11:59 pm EST**. The deadline for you to forward your selected recipient to [awards@wildlife.org](mailto:awards@wildlife.org) is **11:59 pm EST, May 1, 2018**.

Make yourself and the nominee proud when they receive this prestigious award in Cleveland in front of the TWS membership.

---

### CMPS Members Susan Ellis-Felege and Merav Ben-David Honored at TWS Annual Conference

Two prominent members of the Central Mountains and Plains Section, Susan Ellis-Felege (ND) and Merav Ben-David (WY), received awards at The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Albuquerque.

Susan was presented with the Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award for her exceptional efforts with the North Dakota Student Chapter of TWS. Along with 9 other recipients in 2017, Merav was recognized as a TWS Fellow for outstanding contributions to The Wildlife Society and the wildlife profession. Both recipients attended the Annual Conference in Albuquerque and received their awards in person in front of an appreciative audience.

Please congratulate our Section members, Susan and Merav, for their extraordinary achievements!





## **Section Business**

### **Student Development Working Group**

Greeting Students,

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 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](mailto:kaconfortin@bsu.edu).

Please visit the attached link 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](https://www.facebook.com/TWS-Student-Development-Working-Group-252817268125541/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).

Student members of TWS had an opportunity to learn about raptors during TWS's Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.







# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 9

## TWS Council Update

### **Bob Lanka, CMPS Representative**

Please contact Bob with questions, concerns, or comments, at [bob.lanka@wyo.gov](mailto:bob.lanka@wyo.gov) or 307-777-4580

### COUNCIL ACTIONS

Council met September 22-23 and 27 at The Wildlife Societies 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Ed Thompson began his duties as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer on July 1, 2017, taking over from Ken Williams who retired the day before.

During the budget year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, income (not including investments) was \$2,726,771 and expenses totaled \$2,666,414 for a net surplus of \$60,357, which was put into the TWS Permanent Reserve Fund. Membership was at 9,710 on June 30, which is 581 more than one year ago. Eleven percent of TWS members are from the Central Mountains and Plains Section. There were also 1,120 Give Back members. To date only about 10% of these folks become full members. The goal is to have at least 20% join TWS.

Council continues its efforts to update the Societies' Position Statements. The following statements were recently updated and approved by Council in November: Global Climate Change and Wildlife, The U.S. Endangered Species Act, Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle, Firearms, and Livestock Grazing on Rangelands in the Western United States. These revised statements should be available on TWS's website soon. Another excellent tool for Chapters and Sections, but particularly for students and early career professionals, is the Policy Priority Reference List section of the website. The Wildlife Society's *Policy Priority Reference Lists* provide references to journal articles related to TWS' ten [policy priorities](#). This new tool is another great addition to The Wildlife Society Policy Toolkit.

Council continues to look at ways to reach out to those that are members of their Student, State or Provincial Chapters or a member of their Section but are not members of The Wildlife Society. Fidel Hernandez, the Southwest Section Rep to Council chairs the ad-hoc committee looking at this issue. This committee was formed by now Immediate Past-President Thompson to encourage creative thinking on how TWS might better engage with all that have some interest in TWS and its mission. Committee charges were as follows:

Identify and summarize indicators of the effects of TWS member services and engagement on recruiting and retaining new TWS members from among those who were previously only Chapter and Section members. Focus attention on prospective effects of actions underway but not fully



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 10

## TWS Council Update (continued)

implemented (e.g., communications to and from units, free journal access, web support, e-communications, outreach efforts by staff, CAN, compliance with existing procedures by unit officers) to determine where in the spectrum TWS is in connecting to those identifying with TWS objectives but not affiliating for effective communication.

Prepare a review of options for providing a non-voting TWS membership category and associated benefits for any Chapter and Section members who are not currently TWS members.

Work with Bylaws Subcommittee to identify implications to Bylaws for establishing TWS membership categories that apply to all affiliated members at Chapter and Section levels of the organization.

Describe key outreach and process development actions (with associated time schedule) for implementation of an organization integration plan for TWS to begin pursuing in FY2017–2018.

Bylaws for most Chapters and Sections, through the Associate Membership category, currently provide the basic framework under which this effort could be housed. As defined by existing Chapter/Section bylaws, an Associate Member is an individual who is a member of their Chapter and/or Section but is not a member of TWS. Council discussed at length how TWS might go about reaching out to these folks. Our discussion revolved around the following three items:

- No cost

- Benefit – one monthly issue of the eWildlifer

- TWS requests member name and e-mail only

For those of you that have been around long enough to remember discussions regarding unified membership, Council has been very clear that unified membership is not our intent and that idea is not on the table. For those that don't remember what the unified membership idea was, it basically would have required that each person who was a member at any level of TWS must also be a member of TWS. So you would not have been able to be a member of your State Chapter unless you were a member of TWS. We are **NOT** going there.

I had a chance to discuss this idea with Boards of some of our State Chapters earlier this year. Their response has been consistent. They would be willing to share a limited version of their State Chapter membership list (name and e-mail only) only after they gave each member the opportunity to opt in or decline. Contact information for those that declined would not be shared.

Council has taken no action on this topic. President McDonald advised he will ask the committee to continue its work. I hope to get to more Chapter meetings this coming winter (KS, SD, NE, and UT) and continue this conversation. In the meantime, I am asking each of you to share your thoughts with me on



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 11

## TWS Council Update (continued)

this topic so that I can consider your ideas as Council continues to discuss this matter. You can do so through your State Chapter Board or individually. Either way, I value your input.

I found myself watching *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* on the tube the other day. The simple idealism and belief in the bedrock principles our country was founded on may seem quaint and out-of-place in a world where one can turn on the TV at any time and witness the senseless hate and slaughter human beings are capable of inflicting on one another. In spite of all that, I choose to hang on to and try to live by the ideal. To quote Jefferson Smith:

“Just get up off the ground, that's all I ask. Get up there with that lady that's up on top of this Capitol dome, that lady that stands for liberty. Take a look at this country through her eyes if you really want to see something. And you won't just see scenery; you'll see the whole parade of what Man's carved out for himself, after centuries of fighting. Fighting for something better than just jungle law, fighting so's he can stand on his own two feet, free and decent, like he was created, no matter what his race, color, or creed. That's what you'd see. There's no place out there for graft, or greed, or lies, or compromise with human liberties. And, uh, if that's what the grownups have done with this world that was given to them, then we'd better get those boys' camps started fast and see what the kids can do. And it's not too late, because this country is bigger than the Taylors, or you, or me, or anything else. Great principles don't get lost once they come to light. They're right here; you just have to see them again!”

The management of wildlife in North America is also founded on a great principle, the Public Trust Doctrine. As wildlife managers, scientists, law enforcement officers, or students we have an obligation to speak for that which has no voice of its own, our tremendous wildlife resources and the habitats they depend upon. The job is difficult, sometimes even demoralizing, but it is one that those of us with an “ecological education”, as Leopold called it, must take on. The Wildlife Society provides a mechanism to help you broaden your sphere of influence and bring science to this worthy cause. For those of you who are not members, I encourage you to consider it. Our professional society and our worthy cause need your voice.

And finally, for my dear friend and now past president of TWS whose term on Council ended in October, please remember his rally cry: **WE ARE – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY!**

Thanks for all you do. Until next time...





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 12

## Chapter Updates

### Colorado State University

This has been a great semester so far for the Colorado State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society. This semester, our Chapter has a lot of events and opportunities for our members to get involved with the club and connected with conservation. We started our new school year off strong by recruiting and promoting our club at a couple of different University events. The first was a fall involvement exposition held by the CSU Werner College of Natural Resources that allowed for student-led natural resource and conservation organizations to promote themselves. The second was the Colorado State University Fall Involvement Exposition that is a general promotion of all student organizations. We were honored to be able to send students and participate in the annual TWS conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico where our president, Bryce Davis, was invited to speak on a panel that addressed generational gaps in the wildlife workforce.

The Chapter participated in some conservation events that allowed our members to gain some hands-on conservation experience through volunteering at two ranches. In September, the CSU Chapter had the opportunity to volunteer on a ranch owned and operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife called McGregor Ranch. The Ranch is in Estes Park, right outside of Rocky Mountain National Park. We removed thistle and other invasive plants from a creek that ran through the property. The goal of the project was to remove plants that increased erosion of the banks of the creek. When removed, this will restore great aquatic and riparian habitat for wildlife on the ranch. We visited Roberts Ranch, a private conservation easement in the Livermore Valley in early October, which has been an ongoing partnership with our sister club, Society for Conservation Biology. For years, both clubs go to the Robertson Ranch every semester and complete a conservation project. This semester we completed a project that delivers water from higher elevation natural springs to manmade lower elevation springs created to provide water for both cattle and wildlife on the ranch.

This semester, we have had very productive and diverse meetings that include speakers and activities for our members. We have had meetings that range from a movie night to a trivia night to get our members engaged and meeting new people. We have had speakers give a variety of different talks for the club. These speakers included Greg Hill from the Wood River Wolf Project talking about his cooperation with non-lethal deterrents to discourage wolves from predating on livestock on private ranchlands in the Wood River area of Idaho. We also had Chris Kritok come in and talk about his work in the CSU ecotoxicology lab and give our members tips and recommendations for graduate school.

Some of our Chapter's ongoing projects are still going strong this semester; those include our long-time Chapter fundraiser, our coffee cart. This also includes a raptor monitoring program and a camera trap project. Our coffee cart has been going for many years and was started originally as a long-term fundraising project for the club. Our cart has expanded to its current operation of being open 5 days a week

## Chapter Updates

### **Colorado State University (continued)**

from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our current coffee table manager, Kendra Harris, does a great job of keeping the cart running smoothly so we can provide a way for anyone at CSU to support the club by purchasing coffee.

Our raptor monitoring program has been an ongoing partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to monitor local bird populations, mainly raptors, by conducting raptor surveys around Larimer County. Our main survey area is at Boyd Lake State Park in Loveland, Colorado, but other areas are additionally surveyed. Our surveys take place every first and third Sunday of the month. CPW uses the data that we gather for their own records. So the Chapter is helping CPW keep up with its raptor populations in Larimer county.

Our camera trap project started as a student-led project that evolved into a project that the CSU Chapter has been managing for years. This project involves monitoring and managing wildlife cameras set up at a natural area on the outskirts of Fort Collins called Pine Ridge Natural Area. We do regular camera checks in the spring, summer, and fall where members can come and get hands on experience with handling camera traps and sorting through camera trap data. This allows members to acquire skills that they can add to their resumes or bring into their careers. This project does a lot of work with the local community, as well, because our camera trap project regularly goes into local schools and teaches kids about local wildlife and how camera data is collected, lending to conservation efforts. The City of Fort Collins, as well as CPW, uses photos and data collected from our camera traps to see what kinds of local wildlife have been entering the City, as well as monitoring those populations.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 14

## Chapter Updates

### **University of Nebraska — Kearney**

Throughout the 2016-2017 academic school year, the University of Nebraska-Kearney Chapter of The Wildlife Society participated in many educational activities. Aside from monthly chapter meetings, members got together multiple times throughout the year to partake in activities ranging from wildlife to political activism.

One of the first activities that members participated in was a day spent volunteering as a Chapter at The Nature Conservancy in Wood River, NE, in October 2016. Members spent a Saturday morning removing invasive tree species in a designated area of land within TNC property as part of an on-going TNC project to restore prairie land.

When the Chapter was restricted to more indoor activities throughout the winter months, members invited multiple guests to come speak to the Chapter. In January 2017, the Chapter's first guest was Andrew Pierson, the Director of Conservation of the Rowe Sanctuary, who spoke to members about volunteer opportunities at the sanctuary during crane season. This area of central Nebraska is one of the top places in the world to view the migration of Sandhill Cranes, and the Rowe Sanctuary is a popular spot for cranes to land during the season, making the sanctuary a hot tourist attraction that requires volunteer help to run during the busy season.

In February 2017, the Chapter invited Keith Geluso, a professor of biology at UNK, to present the process of preparing a museum specimen for educational purposes. Through demonstration, members viewed the painstaking and detail-oriented process of preparing a rat for presentation to a museum. The presentation was both highly informative and interesting.

In April 2017, the UNK Chapter invited the final guest for the year, Dustin Ranglack, another UNK biology professor. Dr. Ranglack held a radio telemetry workshop for the members, first having members learn about the different collars and transmitters used in the science and art of radio telemetry, and then had members put this new knowledge to the test by creating a fun and challenging scavenger hunt. This scavenger hunt worked by placing radio collars around campus property and having members group together and compete to find their collars in the shortest amount of time using telemetry.

April was a busy month for the Chapter, with members also pairing up with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chapter of TWS to participate in South Dakota goat surveys through the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance. Members who participated in the surveys said it was a great experience and that they would highly recommend volunteering.

The Chapter didn't just participate in activities that pertained only to wildlife. One of the final activities of the year was having members march as a group in the Kearney March for Science that took place on Earth Day in April 2017. Not only does the Chapter strive to encourage members to become interested about wildlife, but to become interested in actively participating in the local political events and discussions pertaining to wildlife, conservation, and science in general.



## Chapter Updates

### University of Nebraska — Lincoln

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Wildlife Club Chapter has had an exciting first couple of months. We kicked off the new school year with our Welcome Back BBQ, Missouri Outdoor Expo, and Wild Fall Festival.

The newest members have had a blast and have been more than helpful with volunteer events on and off campus. We are very excited about this year's adventures to come. The weekend of September 30<sup>th</sup> we headed towards Valentine, Nebraska for our annual canoe trip. We had several members help mentor at the Pheasant Forever Youth Hunt, as well as the Forestry Field Day. The Wildlife Club participates in weekly Nature Nights at local elementary schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for new and older members to be more acquainted with each other, network with people, and learn more about the wildlife in local wildlife.

We have experienced so much already, and can't wait to see what is to come!





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 16

## Upcoming Events

### **2017 Wyoming Chapter Annual Meeting**

Jackson, Wyoming  
December 4-8, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://wytwsconference.org/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Virginian Lodge, Jackson, Wyoming. A room block will be available for \$65-78 per night.



---

### **2018 Colorado Chapter Annual Meeting**

Grand Junction, Colorado  
February 7-9, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://wildlife.org/colorado/meetings/annual-meeting/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

The Double Tree Hilton, Grand Junction, Colorado.

---

### **2018 Kansas Chapter Annual Meeting and Kansas Natural Resources Conference**

Manhattan Kansas  
February 8-9, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://www.kansasnrc.org/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas.

---

### **2018 South Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting**

Oacoma, South Dakota  
February 27-28, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information at <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/south-dakota-chapter-annual-meeting/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 17

## Upcoming Events

### **2018 Utah Chapter Annual Meeting**

Vernal, Utah

March 21-23, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information at <http://wildlife.org/utah/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Uintah Conference Center, Vernal, Utah.

---

### **Western Black Bear Workshop**

Grand Junction, Colorado

May 21-24, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at [http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/western\\_black\\_bear\\_workshop/](http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/western_black_bear_workshop/).

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Information forthcoming.

---

### **31st Annual Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop**

Billings, Montana

June 18-21, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at [http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage\\_and\\_columbian\\_sharp-tailed\\_grouse/](http://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage_and_columbian_sharp-tailed_grouse/).

#### VENUE AND LODGING

The Northern Hotel, Billings, Montana.

---

### **2018 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference**

Eugene, Oregon

June 12-17, 2018

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at [http://www.wafwa.org/events/annual\\_conference/](http://www.wafwa.org/events/annual_conference/).

#### VENUE AND LODGING

The Hilton, Eugene, Oregon.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 18

## **Annual Business Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2017)**

President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM CST.

Executive Board members introduced themselves: (in person) Andrea Orabona (President), Jim Hays (Vice-President), Justin Hamilton (Member At-large), and Shelly Deisch (Member At-large); (via conference call) Laurel Badura (Secretary/Treasurer), Stephanie Ferrero (Member At-large), Adam Behney (Member At-large), and Aleshia Fremgen (Newsletter Editor). Twenty-four CMPS members were also present for the meeting. This constitutes a quorum.

Andrea Orabona gave a presentation on the background of CMPS, reviewed bylaws and proposed changes, discussed our Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, and talked about the Spring Newsletter. Andrea emphasized that the Central Mountains and Plains Section is the liaison between State and Student Chapters and The Wildlife Society (TWS), and that we are here to serve our members.

Andrea Orabona read the minutes from the 2016 CMPS Annual Business Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Bill Vodehnal made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynn McDaniels seconded the motion; discussion included a request from Gary White to change the word National in the minutes to The Wildlife Society, as TWS is now international in scope; Andrea stated that this could not be changed in the newsletter that has already been sent out, but that we would make those corrections from here on out; motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Laurel Badura gave the Treasurer's report. Our total expenses were \$2,435.82, and \$11,011.60 is our total current income. Laurel gave an update on the CD in question. The CD had been cashed out and included in our total income. It looked like an additional \$2,400, but it was actually part of our balance. She does have a few more checks to deposit, which total around \$1,100, and we also have two awards to pay for. Gary White made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to approve the Treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Bob Lanka, Section Representative to TWS Council, gave a presentation on TWS Council updates. He talked about The Wildlife Society turning 80 years old today; discussed upcoming national meetings; discussed member numbers, statistics, and demographics; reviewed new member benefits; and presented his Section challenge with an emphasis on recruiting new members from First Nation Tribes. Bob also discussed TWS's Leadership Institute; the Give Back Program; the 1,000 Program; and legislative work with the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. He gave an overview of presidential legacies, and how TWS needs to be involved with wildlife issues regardless of our current President and Administration. He offered quotes by Teddy Roosevelt, Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, and the first TWS journal in 1937 that talked about science and advocacy. These were all examples to show that we are facing some of the same challenges that our predecessors faced. Bob made a pitch to join TWS, because we can have a bigger impact on conservation by joining together than we can each accomplish individually.

Andrea Orabona discussed nominees for the upcoming opening of the Section Representative to TWS Council position. The renewal is in October 2017, and we will be able to vote in June through TWS. The two nominees are Bob Lanka and Adam Ahlers. Thanks to both candidates for their willingness to serve CMPS and TWS in this capacity!

Jim Hays discussed the CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award and the Professional Award.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 19

## **Annual Business Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2017), continued**

Both awards winners are from South Dakota this year and will be at the banquet this evening to receive their awards in person. Jim encouraged everyone to nominate worthy recipients for these awards. Jim also discussed that he chairs the Audit Committee, and that the Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Audit Committee before the meeting and was found to be accurate.

Andrea Orabona discussed our CMPS bylaws and that they were reviewed by the Executive Board and updated to include things like conference calls, website information, voting electronically, etc. Andrea will make final suggested changes, send them to TWS for approval, and then make them available via our newsletter so members can vote on accepting the changes.

Aleshia Fremgen discussed the newsletter and asked for members to send information to her for the 2017 Spring Newsletter. She also discussed changing the deadlines to April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup> to better accommodate scheduled events. Newsletters will be released approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. Aleshia also asked for information for the CMPS Facebook page.

Laurel Badura gave an update on the next CMPS meeting, which will be a joint meeting between CMPS and the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The meeting will be in February or maybe January, following the results of the Nebraska survey on meeting time. Program development ideas can be sent to Laurel. They have discussed having it in Kearney, but no meeting location has been decided upon yet. Updates will be provided by Nebraska TWS to CMPS members about the meeting.

Andrea Orabona discussed the trial basis of how states can host the CMPS Annual Meeting: 1) CMPS meeting is held in August separate from the host's State Chapter meeting, 2) State Chapter moves its meeting to August for a joint meeting, or 3) CMPS meeting is moved to be held jointly with the host's State Chapter meeting. This trial suggestion was made at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Steamboat Springs, as some members thought it was costly to have two meetings a year and potentially difficult to get members to attend both. This is a trial basis, and for now the decision is made by the host state.

Bill Vodehnal discussed the Conservation Affairs Network. There are bimonthly conference calls to discuss what is taking place at the State Chapter and Section levels, and with TWS. Along with Keith Norris, members have discussed the Farm Bill and the issues of feral horses and burros on public lands. They are in the process of cataloging all position statements, letters, etc. from State Chapters and Sections from the last 10 years. Bill and Andrea Orabona have also been working on a Land and Water Conservation Fund letter; Congress is authorized to spend \$900 million but they have been spending \$300-\$400 million per year to various projects and land acquisitions. These funds go back to the states. Bill has submitted a letter to Andrea for review from the Section. Bill encouraged the South Dakota Chapter to write a letter to their Congressional delegation regarding LWCF allocation, as well. The Wyoming Legislature introduced a bill on privatization of wildlife that would allow permitted individuals to collect up to 1,000 wild Greater Sage-Grouse eggs and raise them in captivity for later release.

Andrea Orabona discussed the opening for President-Elect and two At-large Board Member positions that will come open this August. President-Elect is a 4-year commitment (President-Elect for 1 year, President for 2 years, and Past-President for 1 year). The At-large Board Member position is a 2-year commitment. The terms of Justin Hamilton and Adam Behney (who took over for Lindsey Messinger after she moved out of the Section's region) will end this August. Position descriptions are on the CMPS website and in the

## Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 20

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 28, 2017), continued

bylaws.

Lynn McDaniels stated that the CMPS banner displayed at the meeting needs to be updated (it still includes 3 Canadian provinces). Andrea Orabona replied that it was found in someone's office and sent to her and is the only banner we currently have, but a new one would be ideal.

Bill Vodehnal is working on the Rangeland Working Group, and asked Section members to be involved in available TWS working groups. It only costs \$5 to join.

Gary White stated that the Section has not nominated a candidate for the Distinguished Service Award for the last 2 years. Gary discussed that each Section is allowed to nominate one member per year, and encouraged the Section members to nominate a deserving candidate. The award is for long-term distinguished service to The Wildlife Society and is to award someone for "always being there". See the website for more details. Award nominations should be sent to Jim Hays.

Gary White made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously. Andrea Orabona adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM CST.







# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

## CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

**Position Held By**

### STATE CHAPTERS

#### COLORADO

President Pat Magee  
Past-President Tony Gurzick

#### KANSAS

President Brad Rueschhoff  
President-Elect Justin Hamilton

#### NEBRASKA

President Jennifer Prenosil  
President-Elect Matt Steffl

#### NORTH DAKOTA

President Rick Nelson  
President-Elect Rick Warhurst

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

President Joshua Stafford  
President-Elect Alex Solem

#### UTAH

President Riley Peck  
President-Elect Stephanie Graham

#### WYOMING

President Holly Copeland  
President-Elect Ben Wise

### STUDENT CHAPTERS

#### CO STATE UNIVERSITY

President Bryce Davis  
President-Elect Griselda Landa-Posas  
Advisor Stewart Breck  
Advisor Larissa Bailey

#### WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY

President Mady Smith  
President-Elect James Antley  
Advisor Patrick Magee

#### EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS

President Curtis Defore  
President-Elect Chase Beyer  
Advisor William Jensen

#### KS STATE UNIVERSITY

President Caroline Skidmore  
President-Elect Rachel McNemee  
Advisor David Haukos

#### CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE

President Grant Gydesen  
President-Elect Will McClintic  
Advisor Teresa Frink

#### UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY

President Emma Keele  
President-Elect Nicole Pauley  
Advisor Dustin Ranglack

#### UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN

President Samantha Lange  
President-Elect Ashley Anderson  
Advisor Dennis Ferraro

#### WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE

President Kylie Comba  
President-Elect Austyn Houser  
Advisor Mark Hammer

#### ND STATE UNIVERSITY

President Micki Palmersheim  
President-Elect Hanna Karevold  
Advisor Erin Gillam

#### UNIVERSITY OF ND

President Steffanie Brewer  
President-Elect Alyssa Espinoza  
Advisor Jason Boulanger  
Advisor Susan Ellis-Felege

#### VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND

President Dalton Scheuring  
President-Elect Nicholas Kramer  
Advisor Bob Anderson

#### SD STATE UNIVERSITY

President Heidi Becker  
President-Elect DJ Reker  
Advisor Kent Jensen

#### BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT

President Sydney Lamb  
President-Elect Ben Hoose  
Advisor Tom Smith  
Advisor Steve Petersen

#### UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

President Colter Dye  
Advisor Amy Sibul

#### UT STATE UNIVERSITY

President Margaret Hallerud  
President-Elect Daniel Johnson  
Advisor Dan MacNulty  
Advisor Frank Howe

#### WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT

President Austin Grimes  
President-Elect Eric Atwood  
Advisor John Cavitt

#### UNIVERSITY OF WY

President Britany Wagler  
President-Elect Trevor Throrvaldson  
Advisor Merav Ben-David