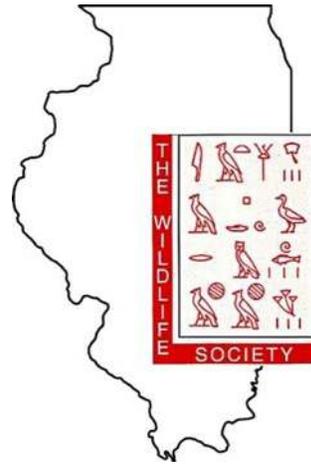


Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education

Edited by Paul Brewer, President-Elect

President's Corner

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In my last article as ICTWS president, I wanted to recognize and thank the many people who are committed to conservation of wildlife and natural resources in Illinois, but who aren't professional wildlife biologists or don't work for an agency charged with protecting and managing natural resources. Many people voluntarily give their time, money, and energy to support wildlife research, protect natural areas, back the not-for-profit conservation organizations, and otherwise conserve our state's natural resources. These "volunteers" are incredibly important to recognize, and I wanted to thank them for their service and support.

Each spring, I have the pleasure of interacting with hundreds of students, biologists, and other volunteers who give their time to help band thousands of ducks along the Mississippi River. Hundreds of volunteers from across the United States travel to Western Illinois University's Kibbe Field Station near Hamilton, IL each spring to capture and band lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*). Lesser scaup populations have declined substantially from historic levels and efforts were initiated during the late 1990's to study scaup

throughout their migration and breeding range to better understand mechanisms underlying their decline. Dr. Alan Afton from Louisiana State University started a banding program on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River under which more than >30K bands have been deployed on spring-migrating diving ducks. This banding program has been almost entirely supported by volunteers from across the Midwest and is one of the best data sources currently available for lesser scaup. Perhaps no other volunteer-driven effort has been more successful in contributing to waterfowl research in recent years and this effort serves as a model for the entire conservation community.

There are also many other examples (e.g., Breeding Bird Survey, wood duck [*Aix sponsa*] boxes, North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, etc.) of volunteer-driven programs that have been critical to studying wildlife. I've learned many lessons during my career as a wildlife researcher, but one lesson sticks out above many others – the importance of engaging the general public in managing wildlife populations. It is critical that conservation organizations engage the general public and offer volunteer opportunities to most effectively conserve and manage wildlife and natural resources in the state. I hope that hundreds of volunteers keep traveling to Kibbe Field Station each spring to band “bluebills” and that all of the professional wildlife managers who read this article are reminded to reach out and engage the general public next time they have an opportunity.

Heath Hagy - - President, ICTWS

2017 Illinois Chapter Meeting - - Coming Soon to WIU in Macomb!!

When: April 11 – 13, 2017

Where: Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. ([WIU Union](#)) ([Google Map](#))

Lodging: [WIU Union Hotel](#) (Rooms \$50/night; Please specifically mention room block code **#170411000** held under “Heath Hagy” when making your reservation) Reserve your Room by March 20th! Other nearby options include the [Super 8](#) and [Comfort Inn](#).

Registration: [ONLINE](#) (\$150 regular / \$50 student; Registration includes all meals and drinks during the conference). A registration table will be available at the conference.

Details: Our annual meeting will kick off on Tuesday, April 11th with a catered evening social. Please join us for a meet and greet from 5PM to 10PM to open our 2017 meeting. Wednesday, April 12th will feature a full day of contributed talks from Illinois wildlife students and professionals. Thursday, April 13th will include a morning session with contributed presentations followed by a business meeting. We expect to adjourn around noon on Thursday. All events will occur in the WIU Union. For Union hotel guest, parking is free. For folks commuting daily to the meeting, parking will be available at meters or via a daily parking pass

that can be obtained at parking services. ICTWS will inquire about arranging passes with parking services prior to the event.

T-shirts: By popular demand, the WIU student chapter will sell ICTWS t-shirts. Limited quantities will be available at the Annual Meeting.

WIU Silent Auction: Please bring items to donate to the WIU silent auction. For questions, please contact Katie Mainor <k-mainor@wiu.edu>.

TWS Give Back Program: Engaging More Wildlife Professionals



When professionals, early-career professionals and retired TWS members renew their memberships, they have the opportunity to “Give Back” to the wildlife profession by gifting a six-month complimentary TWS membership to an active wildlife professional of their choice to introduce that person to the many benefits that TWS has to offer. One of many significant announcements at the TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh by TWS chief operating officer Ed Thompson, this program was arguably one the biggest, creating quite a stir and plenty of positive buzz among attendees.

“Members have expressed how difficult it is to put the true value of a TWS membership into words when encouraging other professionals to join,” Thompson said. “By allowing them to pass along the complete TWS experience, the Give Back program provides members with a simple way to demonstrate that value.”

Over the past two years the Society has significantly improved the benefits of TWS membership, but those who aren’t members of the parent Society likely do not know how much they are missing. During that same time period, the Society’s student membership has continued to grow, but the number of professionals has remained mostly stagnant. So in order to grow and strengthen the TWS network of professionals and increase collaboration opportunities for all members, the new Give Back program specifically targets individuals who are active wildlife professionals to receive these introductory memberships.

Nominees, should they choose to accept their gift membership from a TWS member, will experience all the same benefits as members, including but not limited to:

- *The Wildlife Professional* bimonthly magazine
- Free online access to all TWS publications (*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and *Wildlife Society Bulletin*)(effective Jan. 1, 2017)
- Weekly editions of the *eWildlifer* newsletter, including featured TWS Talks presentations
- Networking through the TWS Online Member Directory (launching in December)
- Ability to join any and all working groups
- Ability to pursue certification opportunities
- A variety of members-only discounts, including \$200 off TWS Annual Conference registration
- And much more!

If you renew online, you will immediately have the opportunity to nominate an active wildlife professional. If you renew through TWS' paperless automatic renewal program or mail in a paper renewal form, you will receive an email with a link that can be used to submit your nomination.

The nomination process is easy:

- Provide the name and email address of the nominee.
- TWS will send an email on your behalf inviting the person to accept your gift.
- The nominee accepts the gift by simply providing a mailing address (to receive *The Wildlife Professional* magazine).
- The nominee receives a welcome email with member login information. You receive an email confirming that the person has accepted your gift so that you can stay in touch and continue to encourage your nominee to join at the end of the six months.

Before your renewal date sneaks up on you, start thinking about who you can nominate. It may be a friend or colleague in your organization or agency; a respected peer at a different organization; a TWS local chapter or section member who isn't a parent society member; or anyone you believe would benefit from a TWS membership and would be a valuable addition to our network of wildlife professionals.

"If every professional, early-career professional and retired member nominates an active professional for this special opportunity, nearly 7,000 people will experience TWS membership through this new program during the upcoming year," Thompson said. "The Give Back Program is an amazing opportunity to significantly grow our membership, providing all TWS members with a wider and more diverse network for professional development and collaboration."

- [Give Back Program](#)
- [TWS membership](#)

Gary Potts - - Immediate Past-President, The Wildlife Society

QUAIL 8 Symposium This Summer

The University of Tennessee, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) and National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC), invite you to the Eighth National Quail Symposium, July 24-29, 2017, in Knoxville, Tennessee. The week begins with the 23rd Annual Meeting of NBTC and continues as Quail 8.

This is the eighth in the series of Northern Bobwhite symposia dating back to 1972, and since Quail III in 1992, western quail have been included. Beginning with Quail VII, the symposia series has been led by NBCI and the National Bobwhite Technical Committee. Quail 8 will feature current quail management and research, including updates and progress of the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and The Western Quail Plan.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Quail 8 editorial committee, and those deemed suitable for development as full manuscripts will be selected, with authors notified by 15 February 2016. Subsequent manuscript deadline is 1 July 2016, enabling distribution of the peer-reviewed proceedings at the meeting.

<https://www.quailcount.org/quail8/home.html>

Stan McTaggart - - Upland Wildlife Program Manager, Illinois DNR

Member Publications

From ICTWS Member Bob Bluett:

Gooley, A.C., R.D. Bluett, and D.A. Woolard. 2016. *Trachemys scripta elegans* (red-eared slider) and *Graptemys geographica* (northern map turtle) Hybridization. *Herpetological Review* 47(4):657-659.

ELECTIONS! ELECTIONS! ELECTIONS!

An excellent slate of new officers (to go along with those who will continue serving) has willingly stepped forward to help lead Illinois Chapter in the coming years! Bios for the candidates and online voting will be coming out separately very soon!!

Illinois TWS Member Gary Potts Receives NCS Professional Award of Merit



At the recent Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference earlier this month in Lincoln, Neb., past TWS president Gary Potts won the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society's highest honor for a wildlife professional.

Potts earned the Professional Award of Merit from members in the North Central Section for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation. Recipients of the award contribute knowledge, outstanding acts and leadership over a period of several years in any area of wildlife work including research, wildlife law enforcement, management, administration or education. The award is only given out when there is a truly exceptional candidate.

Among Potts' achievements, he is most proud of his strong advocacy for student participation and involvement in natural resources management and The Wildlife Society. This includes presenting on topics such as professionalism in natural resources management and other wildlife related issues.

"It's the humility of it, knowing all of the past award winners and the people that were doing this before me," Potts said. "I actually work with some of those people, and that's what was most special."

Potts received a standing ovation from the audience including TWS Executive Director Ken Williams after accepting the award from Chris Newbold, the president of the North Central Section of TWS.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Chapter in Full Swing

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign chapter of the Wildlife Society is in full swing this semester. We have had quite the beginning of the semester starting with a club social featuring a showing of the first episode of the brand new BBC documentary series, Planet Earth 2, and pizza. We participated in local prairie restoration effort with the Urbana Park District and assisted Red Bison, a student conservation organization, with invasive plant removal on what will be the Kickapoo Rail Trail. We participated in an Owl Prowl Recently with the Champaign Park District. We heard many owls, but unfortunately very few sightings. We also assisted in a research project by sampling and data collection on mudpuppies in the Chicago area. We got hands-on experience baiting and checking traps, rock flipping, and processing mudpuppies.

Upcoming activities include another owl prowling the week of February 20th, which hopefully will result in more sightings. We will also be assisting with banding Lesser Scaup and other ducks at the Forbes Biological Station in Havana in March.

As always, we are looking for new ways for our members to learn about wildlife and improve their field techniques. Feel free to contact us at uiucwildlifesociety@gmail.com.

ICTWS Newsletter Submissions

Don't wait for solicitation to provide you 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.

I have enjoyed working on the newsletter this past year as President-elect, and thank everyone for their timely and interesting articles and submissions!! PB

Please email news to the new President-elect, who will be announced soon at the upcoming annual meeting!



Student Chapter Information and Websites

Eastern Illinois University

Advisors: Jill Deppe, jldeppe@eiu.edu

Webpage: http://www.eiu.edu/slo/rso/rso_info.php?id=145

Southern Illinois University

Advisor: Eric Schaubert, schauber@siu.edu

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

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisors: Steve Buck, sbuck@illinois.edu

Bob Schooley, schooley@illinois.edu

Webpage: <https://illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/thewildlifesociety>

Western Illinois University

Advisors: Chris Jacques, CN-Jacques@wiu.edu

Webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1655573311367912/>

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/>

ICTWS Executive Board

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Retired IDNR Wildlife Biologist

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Travis Guerrant, Councilperson-at-Large

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