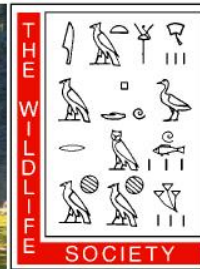


North Central Section TWS



Illinois - Indiana - Iowa - Michigan - Minnesota - Missouri - Ohio - Wisconsin

The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Spring 2014

2013 NCS Awards

The annual North Central Section awards were presented in January at the 74th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Kansas City. We thank Bill Graham, Missouri Department of Conservation, for taking the photographs.

Professional Award of Merit, Stan Temple



*Rochelle Renken, 2013 NCS President,
with Stan Temple*

Dr. Stanley Temple has contributed to wildlife conservation through his research, teaching, and outreach for over 37 years. Stan's research on songbirds and their population dynamics in fragmented landscapes has affected management plans for National Forests in northern Wisconsin and elsewhere

in the North Central region. In addition, his research on the impacts of free-ranging cats on wildlife has been used as the scientific basis for control programs and to support legal challenges to laws that allowed cats to roam freely through sensitive wildlife areas. As an especially satisfying reward for his years of effort, the Peregrine Falcon, an endangered species on which Temple has long worked, was taken off the Endangered Species list because of the success of a recovery effort he helped design and initiate.

See **Awards**, next page

Why membership matters

Your support of The Wildlife Society is important at all levels (i.e., chapter, section, parent society). TWS is our professional home—where we network, learn, and serve. The North Central Section needs your membership support to continue focusing on wildlife and conservation professionals. Some of our specific activities include the following:

- Sponsoring symposia at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
- Sponsoring workshops of regional importance
- Sponsoring conclaves for student chapters in the North Central Section
- Recognizing students & professionals with awards
- Advocating for wildlife, their habitats, and the use of science in conservation decision-making

Join the NCS of TWS today by going to the main [membership web page!](http://www.wildlife.org/membership)
<<http://www.wildlife.org/membership>>

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Awards, continued

Dr. Temple also has an excellent teaching record. He was a faculty member of the University of Wisconsin–Madison for 32 years. He taught eight different courses in wildlife ecology and over 10,000 students took his courses. Professor Temple received every teaching award from the College of Agricultural and Life Science for which he was eligible.

Stan has also been heavily involved in voluntary outreach. He has served on boards of directors or advisory boards for many conservation or scientific organizations, including: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and The Nature Conservancy, to name a few. His recent research using Aldo Leopold's historical records to investigate climate change and soundscape ecology, has been widely covered by the media. He has had feature stories in *Natural History*, and his wildlife photographs have appeared in *National Geographic Magazine* and elsewhere. On the bio-political scene, Temple has testified 18 different times to the U.S. Congress and to the Wisconsin State Legislature as an expert witness on conservation programs and legislation.

Since his "retirement" from academia in 2008 he continues to be fully engaged as a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation where each year he has given dozens of public lectures on conservation topics.

Student Chapter of the Year Award, University of Minnesota–Crookston

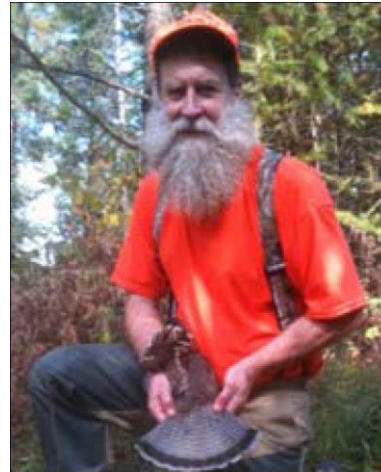


Rochelle Renken with Jennifer DuBay (Vice President) and John Loegering (Advisor) of the Crookston Student Chapter

See **Awards**, next page

President's Message

The Wildlife Society and Our Public Trust Responsibilities



Pat Lederle, 2014 NCS President

Joseph Sax died Sunday, March 9th at his home in San Francisco.

As wildlife professionals often trained in scientific disciplines, we frequently turn to journals like *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Conservation Biology*, or the *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* for informa-

tion to help us craft management recommendations. These important sources of knowledge help us describe "what" we do or "how" we do things.

Joseph Sax, an attorney who focused on environmental issues, wrote a seminal paper titled "The public trust doctrine in natural resource law: effective judicial intervention." Published in 1970 in the *Michigan Law Review*, this paper focused on the "why" of our profession's work. Sax described how natural resources like water, air, and land are so critical to the health and welfare of humans that these resources should be held in trust and ordinary people should have the right to sue individuals, corporations, or the government if the well-being of these resources is threatened. He drew on U.S. Supreme Court rulings, English common law, and even Roman law to craft his arguments. Today we call this body of law the Public Trust Doctrine, and some of the fundamental principles of the doctrine are included in statutes from many states and even in some states' constitutions. Basically, the doctrine asserts that because natural resources are of paramount importance to people, these resources are to be held in trust for the people, and further, it is the administrative responsibility of the state to manage these resources for current and future generations. Herein lies the "why" many of us do what we do.

Whether we are employed by an agency, non-governmental organization, or the private sector, The Wildlife Society helps us all meet our public trust responsibilities. By providing venues for open discussion, debate and publication,

See **President**, next page

Awards, continued

The UMC student chapter was selected because of their service to wildlife management agencies, their outreach to local citizens and college peers, and efforts to provide members with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and technical capabilities.

Examples of their service to agencies included duck banding at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, conifer removal at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, and Northern Goshawk surveys with Minnesota DNR staff. Examples of the student chapter's outreach included hosting a MN DNR presentation on deer management that drew a crowd of 150 citizens and co-sponsoring the "College Outdoor Skills" event at which fellow university students tried their hand at fly-fishing, archery, trap shooting, and orienteering.

Student chapter members enhanced their knowledge and technical capabilities by attending the MN State Chapter meeting, participating in the Midwest Student Conclave, and participating in the Christmas Bird Count and the Western Great Lakes Owl Survey.

Fifty-six percent of the University's enrolled wildlife students are members of the student chapter and on average, 64% of chapter members attend chapter meetings.

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Joanne Crawford, SIU



Rochelle Renken with Joanne Crawford

Joanne Crawford is a doctoral student in Forestry with a Wildlife Ecology emphasis at Southern Illinois University–Carbondale. She was selected because of her academic accomplishments and her community outreach efforts.

See **Awards**, next page



President, continued

and through position papers and reviews, our Society promotes the professional management of natural resources and the sustainability of those resources so not only do we benefit from them, but so can all of those who come after us. I think we all want to leave a legacy of work that benefits the wildlife resources we love and enjoy. Therefore, in our busy world, it is important to prioritize the issues we focus on for our work, in both the short- and long-term. Why should we focus on this issue versus that issue? Where are we having the greatest impact? We are held accountable by bosses, employers, and ourselves, yet the public trust doctrine asserts we must also be accountable to the beneficiaries of the trust—the people who rely on us to manage their resources in a responsible and equitable manner. While engaged in this delicate balancing act (because we all know beneficiaries have differing values and beliefs!), The Wildlife Society provides many of the tools, and perhaps more importantly, contacts that help us establish priorities and be more effective and efficient in our careers. Membership in The Wildlife Society brings together creative and dedicated individuals aligned with the same vision of meeting those public trust responsibilities. In my experience however, these same individuals are not afraid to challenge the status quo and help drive the innovative thoughts and actions that help make our profession contemporary and relevant to the beneficiaries of our efforts. The bottom line for me is I feel very strongly we can have greater influence and ultimately do a more effective job at meeting our public trust responsibilities if we work together, and The Wildlife Society facilitates those outcomes.

I'm proud to be a member of The Wildlife Society for more than thirty years, and I'm humbled to serve as President of your North Central Section. Together we can accomplish much more than working alone.

Awards, continued

Joanne is currently studying the landscape and site factors influencing survival, habitat use, and interactions among swamp rabbits and Eastern Cottontails in reforested bottomland forests in southern Illinois. Her work hopes to inform strategies to manage both upland and bottomland habitats to reverse the decline of both rabbit species. Joanne also has performed research on tiger-human conflicts in India, and the mating ecology and population genetics of beaver in contrasting habitats. To date, Joanne has already published 9 papers in peer-reviewed journals. At the front of the classroom, Joanne has co-taught the course "Forest Management for Wildlife" at SIU, served as a graduate teaching assistant at Eastern Illinois University, and has mentored 3 undergraduates on research projects.

Outside of the academic walls, Joanne is committed to communicating science findings to the public. To that end three years ago she founded the Graduate Research Assistants Supporting Science, or GRASS, outreach program at SIU. This graduate student volunteer program has the mission of sharing information about wildlife and ecology with citizens, especially K thru 12 students. Joanne also organized the 2007 Girl Scouts' "Super Science Saturday" while a student at Eastern Illinois University.

After finishing her educational program at SIU, Joanne wants to serve in a tenure track university position and develop a career using the triad of teaching, research, and outreach as her foundation.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, Jennifer DuBay, UMC



Rochelle Renken with Jennifer DuBay

Jennifer DuBay is a December 2013 graduate of the University of Minnesota–Crookston. Her degree is in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Wildlife Management.

Jennifer was selected because of her work inside and outside the classroom. In the classroom she earned a school grant to study phosphorus phytoremediation abilities of duckweed, fern, water dock, and cattails. Outside of the classroom Jenny was very active by serving as the student chapter's Vice President, organizing and leading a delegation of undergraduates to the Midwest Student Conclave, and organizing with the City of Crookston the first "Moonlight Catfishing Tournament" for the Crookston community. Jenny has also gained valuable summer work experience by working for the Minnesota DNR and Woodcock Minnesota.

Her future plans include continuing to work on waterfowl and wetlands, and perhaps gaining an advanced degree.

Section Rep. Report



David Andersen

The Wildlife Society Council convened for 2 days of meetings, 9-10 March 2014 in Denver, Colorado, in advance of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. There are several highlights and updates to report from that meeting.

First, there are several new people to introduce. Ed

Thompson recently came onboard as Chief of Operations, filling the vacancy left when Darryl Walter departed last fall. Ed has extensive experience in marketing and member services, and brings a lot of new ideas about how The Wildlife Society can better serve its members and attract new members. He most recently worked for the Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association in several leadership positions, and has hit the ground running in his new position with The Wildlife Society.

Hedy Ross has even more recently come on board, having accepted the position of Development Officer within just the past few weeks. Hedy comes to The Wildlife Society with a wealth of experience working for non-governmental organizations (most recently, for The Obesity Society), and also in the private sector, including starting a business. Having served on the search committee that resulted in these two hires, I can tell you that we are fortunate to have these

Section Rep., continued

two outstanding people join The Wildlife Society staff in Bethesda.

Finally, Keith Norris recently began working in his new position as Associate Director for Government Affairs and Partnerships. Many of you may know Keith, as he recently has helped the North Central Section upgrade its website and communications. Keith has an undergraduate degree in wildlife from Purdue University, an M.A. in Public Policy & Management from The Ohio State University, and is currently completing an M.S. in Environment & Natural Resources (Wildlife) at The Ohio State University. Keith has also hit the ground running, and The Wildlife Society is again fortunate to have his experience and enthusiasm on our side.

Other items of interest include conversion in fiscal years under which The Wildlife Society operates, as approved by a recent vote by membership. This year, The Wildlife Society is converting from a calendar year to a July to June fiscal year, which means changing schedules for financial reporting. This change may not be noticeable to most members, but will help The Wildlife Society operate more efficiently, and I think that everyone in Bethesda will be happy when this conversion is completed.

Second, Council discussed the venues and plans for upcoming annual conferences. The 2014 annual conference will be held in Pittsburg from 24-30 October—check the conference website (wildlifesociety.org) for details and to start making plans to attend. The 2015 annual conference will be hosted in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and the local committee for that conference is well on its way to putting together a great meeting there. The following year, the 2016 annual conference will be in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in 2017, The Wildlife Society is entertaining an invitation from The American Fisheries Society to hold a joint meeting in Florida. Council was supportive of pursuing that possibility, so stay tuned. If The Wildlife Society accepts that invitation (that decision needs to be made this summer), Albuquerque, New Mexico will host the 2018 annual conference instead of the 2017 annual conference.

Third, The Wildlife Society's current contract with Wiley Publishing expires in just over 18 months, so a new publication contract is required. In the face of the rapidly changing publication environment (e.g., open-access, electronic publication), The Wildlife Society is investigating options to continue its history of high-quality publications, and what our next publishing contract needs to look like.

Fourth, as you may recall, Council participated in a 2-day retreat in advance of the annual conference last fall in Milwaukee to work on a new strategic plan. There is now a draft of that plan, and at our recent meeting, Council provided feedback to the committee working to finalize that plan regarding what level of detail is desired, and how that plan will tie into operational plans and objectives. A new strategic plan should be ready for review sometime later this year.

Fifth, The Wildlife Society is working to develop a Conservation Action Network, and hopefully, many of you are aware of that effort. How the North Central Section and state chapters in the section will engage in that network is still being considered, but the Conservation Action Network endeavors to help integrate efforts across all levels of The Wildlife Society. In a lot of ways related to the Conservation Action Network, we are currently reviewing all position statements and fact sheets that The Wildlife Society has produced over the years, and reorganizing these to update and make them more useful.

That's the mid-year update on some of The Wildlife Society's activities and opportunities. Please contact me (dea@umn.edu) if you have questions or concerns, think about ways that The Wildlife Society can improve its services to you as a member, and how you as a member can contribute to the mission of The Wildlife Society.

Contributed Essay

Religions, Denominations, and Fundamental Core Beliefs: Elephants on Parallel Myopic Paths

By John H. Schulz



Many of us have attended a professional conference or workshop wearing the obligatory name badge emblazoned with our place of employment and area of specialization or professional interest; e.g., fisheries, forestry, wildlife, conservation biology, or administration. Multiple benefits accrue from wearing these identifying tags, notably networking and strengthening professional relationships

See **Essay**, page 7

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND

Balance as of January 27, 2014..... **\$14,434.23**

<u>Checking</u>	
Starting Balance	\$ 3,048.74
Credit: Transfer from Symposium Account for Luigi Boitani's Travel	\$ 650.00
Ending Balance	\$ 3,698.74
<u>Savings</u>	
Starting Balance	\$11,385.49
Credit: January 2014 Interest	\$ 0.96
Ending Balance	\$11,386.45

Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$15,085.19**

Encumbered Savings: 2014 Student Chapter of the Year Award	\$ 1,000.00
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Unencumbered Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$14,085.19**

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

Balance as of January 27, 2014..... **\$28,376.97**

<u>Savings</u>	
Starting Balance	\$ 5,035.90
Income: Jan 2014 Interest	\$ 0.43
1-yr CD cashed out	\$11,614.41
2-yr CD cashed out	\$11,970.65

Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$28,621.39**

Encumbered Savings: 2014 Feral Swine Workshop	\$ 5,000.00
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Unencumbered Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$23,621.39**

SYMPOSIA FUND

Balance as of January 27, 2014..... **\$10,756.86**

<u>Savings</u>	
Starting Balance	\$ 3,513.46
Income: January 2014 Interest	\$ 0.30
1-yr CD cashed out	\$ 3,604.28
2-yr CD cashed out	\$ 3,714.84
Expenses: Transfer to checking for Luigi Boitani's travel	(\$ 650.00)

Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$10,182.88**

Encumbered Savings: Publishing 2013 Wolf Symp. Proceedings	\$ 1,500.00
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Balance as of February 24, 2014..... **\$ 8,682.88**

TOTAL FUNDS as of February 24, 2014.....\$53,889.46

UNENCUMBERED TOTAL FUNDS as of February 24, 2014\$46,389.46

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



Jim Schneider
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Michigan State University

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University

The Ball State student chapter of The Wildlife Society had a great semester. We had speakers from all around the region from various different fields speak at our meetings. They talked about interesting research in the field. This helped our members gain a better understanding of the world of wildlife



biology and showed them the wide range of career possibilities this field holds. Two of our meetings focused on internships in our field and how to apply for them.

Our members participated in the Indiana DNR recruitment hunts in both dove and pheasant hunts at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area and Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife area, respectively. These were really fun events that gave valuable hunting experience to first-time hunters. Our Chapter was contracted by IN DNR to assist in running some of the deer check-in stations on opening weekend of deer firearms season. We assisted DNR by removing the heads of harvested deer so they could be



See **Students**, next page

Essay, continued

among like-minded individuals. What could be so bad wearing a mark that would place you in the appropriate group, clan, or sect?

In many human cultures, special identifying tags or markers play an important role in helping group members recognize each other, and alternatively keeping uninitiated individuals out of the group (Schulz 2010, Rosenberg 2011). Deep core beliefs are often multifaceted and complex, and quick and easy clues provide a visual signal to others about our beliefs without repeatedly going through the complex details each time we encounter someone new (Putnam 2000, Haidt 2012). Many religions and denominations have similar visual markers showing who belongs and who doesn't.

The Wildlife Society is a professionally broad-based organization containing wildlife biologists with multiple specialties and interests. The Society logo of Egyptian hieroglyphics demonstrates this breadth of interests by depicting mammals, birds, fishes, and flowering plants or vegetation. Rather than looking simultaneously at the whole and its constituent parts, however, we often allow our interests to create a hierarchical distribution with an ultimate myopic focus. There's the game and non-game groups; within each further subdivisions exist. For game animals we can split interests into big-game, small-game, waterfowl, webless migratory game birds, furbearers, and likely numerous others. Non-game interests include shorebirds, passerines, raptors, reptiles, herps, bats, and small mammals; this list too can be further extended. Each of these groups are often further subdivided into groups based on species or a particular habitat affinity. Regardless of professional clannish associations, we outwardly profess our broad thinking of ecosystem management with an emphasis on systems. Sadly, the rhetoric usually isn't demonstrated by meaningful action.

Several years ago the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) was conceived as a way of enlarging the group of conservation stakeholders and thereby increasing the funding pie for on-the-ground management action, especially all migratory birds or "all bird management". In other words, conservation leaders at the time recognized the impending decline in the number of hunters and anglers (often called consumptive-users), and saw a need for strengthening and broadening support for conservation by reaching out to bird watchers and birding enthusiasts (often called nonconsumptive-users). Although the intentions at the

See **Essay**, next page

Students, continued

tested for bovine tuberculosis.

This past fall, we had a camping trip to Red Wolf Sanctuary in Rising Sun, IN. Our members volunteered at the sanctuary which houses gray wolves, red and gray foxes, coyotes, black bears, a mountain lion, and many birds of prey. We helped the owner clean the facilities, build an enclosure, and feed all the animals. It was great animal husbandry experience and a great trip overall.

Our Chapter is also dedicated to working in our community. We worked with a local after-school program and started an educational event where our members created stations and taught students of various ages about different groups of animals at the John Craddock Wetland Preserve in Muncie, IN. We also helped at Craddock by participating in their annual EcoBlitz, which attempts to document and catalog all animals found on the property. We searched for many different species of amphibians, reptiles, fish, and mammals. We also had a volunteer day



where we worked at a local raptor rehabilitation center. We helped the owner out with various tasks, including cleaning and putting up new bird boxes around the property.

Finally, we have many more great events planned for this upcoming semester. Many of our members attended the Midwest Fish & Wildlife meeting in Kansas City, MO, where some members presented their research findings. We also had a large presence at the annual Indiana Wildlife Society and Fisheries Society meeting in Muncie, IN. In the near future we will be constructing and placing new bird boxes on one of Ball State's properties. We also plan on doing another camping trip to a different location. We hope to continue with the same momentum as last year and end with another strong year.

See **Students**, next page

Essay, continued

time were noble, the desired change has remained elusive and ineffectual. Instead of building stronger partnerships and a stronger funding base, we've built a dichotomous bureaucracy where parallel paths (or divergent paths) have unnecessarily duplicated efforts in the face of declining funds and relevancy.

I recently attended the 2014 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, MO along with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Denver, CO. Although there were numerous bird interests with similar management interests, there continues to be a dysfunctional dichotomy and unnecessary duplication of effort between the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Bird Conservation Committee (BCC) and the National Flyway Council and related regional flyway councils (i.e., Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways). A series of groups interested in migratory bird management met in one set of rooms while another series of groups with similar interests met in different rooms often just across the hallway. It was as if their respective conference name badges had directed them to their appropriate group with little thinking. Two of the last three years have witnessed an attempt to reorganize AFWA committee structure, but each committee stresses the importance of retaining their unique identity within the status quo. Few want to publically recognize that since the establishment of NABCI the conservation funding pie has become smaller (not larger), and more groups want their fair share of the available funds.

Core beliefs are fundamental to our personal and professional identities. Professionally we look to the past for direction and guidance as a basis for our professional core beliefs; e.g., George Perkins Marsh, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, George Grinnell, Aldo Leopold, Starker Leopold, Rachel Carson, Sigurd Olson, and more recent political icons like Hubert Humphrey and Stewart Udall (Nash 1982, Worster 1994, Reiger 2001). History can be very helpful by providing context and general perspective, but it cannot provide answers to our difficult challenges of today. Jonathan Haidt (2006, 2012) often uses the metaphor of an elephant driver in India; the driver usually controls the elephant unless the elephant decides otherwise. Professionally, we've become the elephant driver who often steers the creature to the desired location unless the creature chooses to ignore our commands. We talk of ecosystem management and partnerships but we feel comfortable

See **Essay**, next page

Students, continued

Missouri Western State University

The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Missouri Western State University has kept their members busy with a



variety of activities during this spring semester. So far this semester, we have worked with nearby wildlife refuges, the local Department of Conservation office, sent student representatives to area conferences, and have assisted with several events on campus. Activities began in January and will continue into the summer.

The first activity this spring was a three day GPS Workshop where students learned valuable GIS skills and how to operate a Trimble GPS unit. At the end of January, our Chapter was able to send a group of students to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Kansas City. The students that attended were able to participate in various workshops, speaker presentations, and interact with practicing professionals. Chapter members also got the chance to assist Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge with their January managed deer hunt. Students assisted the refuge with checking hunters in, helping hunters field dress their deer, and aided in overall logistics of the event. One of the University's professors conducts a deer brain worm study which our members also helped with. February saw our members attending the Missouri Natural Resource Conference in Tan-Tar-a and running our own activities at Super Science Saturday held on Missouri Western's campus.



See **Students**, next page

Essay, continued

within our own professional religions and distinct denominations while allowing the elephant to choose the path forward.

How do we move forward and effect meaningful change? Recently, each of the flyway councils established non-game bird technical committees with similar responsibilities and authority to waterfowl and webless technical committees. Broader attendance at these regional meetings by all bird interests would open dialog among states, USFWS, and engaged NGOs. Another potential solution is rethinking the parallel paths created by NABCI and find ways to incorporate all bird interests into the flyway system (as compared to creating another parallel path). Last, maybe we could start to affect change by simply removing our area of expertise from our conference name badges, thus gently encouraging the elephant to move toward a more optimal path.

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Students, continued

March is where our Chapter really hits its stride. Our activities included wood duck box maintenance at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, various habitat workdays, a red card refresher course, an antler measuring workshop, a three day GPS Workshop, chemical capture and restraint workshop, and assisted with the Applied Learning Conference held on campus. The wood duck box maintenance and habitat workdays both occurred at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge and encompassed a variety of wildlife management practices, such as prepping wood duck boxes and prairie restoration by removing woody vegetation. The antler measuring workshop was put on by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This workshop introduced our members to the methods and terminology used in measuring antlers. Students were able to try out these skills after the presentation. The rest of our events in March occurred on campus and were both enriching and rewarding to our membership.



For the remainder of the spring semester we have several events and activities planned. There will be more habitat workdays at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in which members will be continuing work on the prairie restoration project on the Loess Hills. We also have members planning on attending the Spring Workshop being held in early April at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Our Chapter ends the semester with a banquet which will celebrate the winning of the 2013 International Student Chapter of the Year award and the presentation of the results of our officer election. During the summer many of our members work on research projects on campus or have internships in various wildlife fields. Our Chapter has been very successful in our endeavors this semester.

Ohio State University

The Ohio State University Student Chapter had their annual spring cookout on April 16th.

Purdue University



The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been a part of some exciting activities this academic year. To start things off, we had eleven student members attend the TWS National Conference in Milwaukee, WI, last October which was the most our chapter has taken in a long time. While in Milwaukee we benefitted greatly from the networking opportunities and found out about a white-tailed deer project that was being conducted in Wisconsin. In January, nine student members made the trip up to Shiocton, Wisconsin, to assist them in catching white-tailed deer and

fitting them with radio collars. The Forestry and Natural Resources Department here at Purdue put on an Invasives



Training workshop last fall where students learned about some of our major invasives and ways to control them. We were then taken outside and demonstrated what we learned by cutting and removing Amur honeysuckle from a departmental property. Our bird working group made a trip to southern Indiana to assist in Northern Saw-whet Owl banding and is actively involved in songbird banding on some of Purdue's properties. The mammal working group led a small mammal trapping activity where students could come out and gain experience handling and tagging small

See **Students**, next page

Students, continued

mammals. This year marked the initiation of a hunting program here at Purdue where professors will take students with little to no hunting background out on designated properties and give them the chance to harvest their first game and understand the importance of hunting. Two groups, one with no background and another with a hunting background, were able to participate in hunts that were put on by the Indiana DNR. We heard from a variety of guest speakers that ranged from NGO to state and even federal employees. All in all, it has been a fun and eventful year for the Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



Southern Illinois University

The SIU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been involved in a number of activities since Fall 2013. We played



Students of the SIU Student Chapter wrangle a deer in east-central Illinois

a large role in assisting with the Annual Darwin Week events. The school obtained keynote speaker John Gurche who is a very experienced Paleoartist. The talk was both interesting and educational and had a grand turnout. Students traveled north to Shelbyville, Illinois, in February to assist SIU doctoral candidate Matt Springer with his research involving deer trapping. Students got to observe and assist with setting up the drop net as well as rocket nets. This was an amazing opportunity for the students to ask questions, and learn as well as get-hands on experience getting samples, tagging, and collaring deer. Students also assisted with a Green Earth trash cleanup day at Attucks Park in Carbondale. This area of town is particularly susceptible to litter accumulation from storm water. The number of students that turned out for this clean up resulted in a large amount of trash and debris cleared and resulted in a cleaner and safer park for all who visit. We also are proud to begin collecting cans in an effort to assist the Humane Society of Southern Illinois with their PAWS to Recycle Program. Cans are collected and brought to the local recycling plant in exchange for money that is put towards their low cost spay and neuter program.

Truman State University



The Truman State University chapter of TWS has had a very exciting year. We have had an increase in our membership and have had biweekly lectures by professors. Our chapter has been planning multiple events to engage the community in activities in order to promote awareness of wildlife conservation and preservation in our world. We are collaborating with multiple groups on campus in order to restore a creek on our campus. One of our favorite outreach projects is Science on Saturday, where we educate elementary students on animals they can find in their own backyards.

Each semester, our chapter takes a trip to a zoo and receives a behind the scenes tour, allowing our members to make great contacts. Our other big event is Earth Week. Our chapter works with a variety of groups in order to put on events each day of the week, culminating in a large event.

See **Students**, next page

Students, continued



In the past we have held Raptor Day, when a group of volunteers brought large birds of prey to our campus and gave a presentation. In the future, we plan on bringing in Noppadol Paothong, a famous wildlife photographer, to tell us about his career.

We have introduced a new committee in our chapter, the Research Committee. Each of its members are required to participate in a research project and then give a presentation



to the general body at a meeting. The members are building bird boxes and monitoring squirrel nest distribution, projects which will be ongoing. We are very excited about our new members and our community projects.

University of Illinois–Urbana/Champaign

The UIUC Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has survived the polar vortex with its members still intact! In anticipation of upcoming field seasons, our annual job fair brought in numerous employers and graduate students with whom undergraduate students were able to discuss potential employment or internship opportunities. We also sponsored a CV and cover letter workshop that was employed by the Career Center here on campus.

So far we've had two guest speakers at our meetings this semester.

Jordana Meyer is a former UIUC grad who currently conducts wildlife research in Africa and facilitates study



abroad programs for students. She presented some of her graduate research about the mating systems and hormones of elephants. Dr. Jen Fraterrigo recently spoke to us about current research going on in her lab here at UIUC, which is focused broadly on plant-soil relationships, application of GIS and Remote Sensing Applications, and how these things can be considered in a wildlife management context.

We've explored a couple different fundraising ventures this year: students hand-crafted earrings from natural materials (e.g. turkey feathers, shells), and we've also been selling bird-friendly coffee (Birds & Beans). We haven't gotten rich from either, but the craft nights were very popular! Our outreach program has visited two schools this semester and has scheduled several more science nights and in-class visits for later in the semester. The first event was the *Exoskeleton*



See **Students**, next page

Students, continued



Extravaganza! – an arthropod awareness event at the Campus Middle School for Girls. The 2nd event was an *Illinois Wildlife* presentation to Stratton Elementary which involved the use of pelts, skulls, skins, and live insects to teach students about wildlife you can see around the world AND right here in Illinois.

Upcoming events for our group include assisting with prescribed prairie burns, gun range training at the U of I Police Training Institute, a trip down to view the prairie chicken leks in Southern Illinois, and (hopefully) many more outdoor activities as the weather continues to warm up.

University of Minnesota–Crookston

The chapter has been active in gaining experience and professional development over the last several months, and plans for the rest of spring are even more frenetic. In December we assisted with the local Christmas Bird Count, a



Mark Koep, Mark Jackson, Alisha Mosloff, and Jake Arvidson proudly display the American Kestrel boxes they constructed

great opportunity for the club veterans to share the experience with the first timers. We also made pine cone and peanut butter bird feeders with kids at UMC's annual Santa Land event. We removed exotic conifers at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge as part of the friends group's 'Cut your own Christmas tree' week. In February students attend the Minnesota Chapter meeting of The Wildlife Society, placing second in quiz bowl competition (congratulations to the victors from Bemidji State University!). At the meeting, former Vice President Jenny DuBay was runner up for the student poster award! Also in February, a few members assisted organizers with the Justin Knebel Ice Fishing Tournament on Lake of the Woods, as we have done over the past 4 years. We also held a social gathering among members early in the month to take a break from school and brainstorm some ideas for the future. Our last activity was the construction of American Kestrel nest boxes that will be put up around the city of Crookston as part of club secretary Andy Albersen's undergraduate research project. We are looking forward to conducting Owl and Goshawk Surveys at Beltrami Island State Forest, attending the North Central Section Student Conclave, and celebrating spring from the blinds viewing Greater Prairie-Chicken leks at Rydell NWR.

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities



Raptor banding, North Shore of Lake Superior, October 2013

The University of Minnesota–Twin Cities Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society combines with the University's American Fisheries Society's Minnesota Chapter Student Subunit to form the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology (FWCB) Club. We meet as a group for meetings and activities, which allows for greater networking and learning opportunities, while fostering a better sense of community among students. The FWCB Club has been very active this year, meeting once a month to discuss club matters, and twice a month for off-campus activities. The current officer team is composed of Roberta Ryan, Faith Kelly, Alex Halverson, and Sophia (Sophie) Crosby. They serve as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively.

See **Students**, next page

Students, continued

The club began the fall 2013 semester with a behind-the-scenes tour of Sea Life Minnesota. Members were able to see food preparation, vetting facilities, and holding pools. Next, the club observed raptor banding on the North Shore with Frank Taylor, a raptor specialist and former bird curator of the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center. We were lucky enough to watch Frank band a red-tailed hawk and a merlin. In early November, we toured the Wildlife Science Center, home to more captive wolves than any other facility in the United States and the only place in Minnesota to house both Mexican gray wolves and red wolves. At the end of the tour, each club member had the opportunity to handle an eastern screech owl. During deer season, the FWCB club volunteered to assist the Three Rivers Park District with their annual shotgun hunt. Members learned to age and weigh deer as they came into the station. To round out the semester, the club toured the insect and mammal collections of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum.



Reptile and Amphibian Discover Zoo, March 2014

In 2014, the FWCB Club has already gone ice fishing, taken a behind-the-scenes tour of the Animal Humane Society's Wildlife Rescue Center, and visited the Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo. The club was able to send a team to compete in Quiz Bowl at the Minnesota Chapter meeting of The Wildlife Society, and sent members to attend the Minnesota Chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Currently, the Club has plans to tour Advanced Telemetry Systems, assist the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with bear den research, and tour the Waterville Fish Hatchery. We hope to continue providing educational and career-development opportunities for all of our members throughout spring semester.

University of Missouri

The University of Missouri chapter of The Wildlife Society has participated in several events dating back to last September, the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Our club went on a float/camping trip on the Niangua River in September to kick off the semester. After this we worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation with gathering deer aging data from local hunters at two processing stations. We have also had several guest speakers within the natural resource field come and talk about their careers and themselves, including: Conservation Agent Scott Rice talk about the MDC Protection Volunteer program, USGS Fish Biologist Duane Chapman come speak about Asian carp, Vic Bogosian talk about Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Brandon Butler come speak about the Missouri Conservation Federation, and Parker Hall come speak about the USDA APHIS program and wildlife damage control. The chapter sent two students to the spring student workshop in Mound City, Missouri, this past weekend, and they participated in a variety of field events. Our upcoming events include having MDC Outdoor Skills specialist Brian Flowers come speak about outreach and education, and also we will be sending 13 members to the TWS Midwest student conclave this spring.

State Chapter Reports

Michigan

The Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society hosted its 2014 annual meeting March 27-28 in Grayling, Michigan. The Executive Board organized two special sessions; one on the short-term challenges facing wildlife conservation where we asked current natural resource leaders in the state to offer their perspectives, and one on the business and marketing of wildlife. We also had 14 oral presentations and 5 posters that were presented as part of the program. On each day there were 80-90 attendees from a diversity of organizations, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service and USDA-APHIS, consulting firms, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private land managers. Seven different universities and colleges were also represented, making the meeting an excellent venue for student-professional networking.

See **State Chapters**, next page

State Chapters, cont'd.



Amy Trotter, Resource Policy Manager for Michigan United Conservation Clubs, presenting at the Michigan Chapter meeting

Minnesota

The [MN TWS conference](#) was held in Bemidji, MN, from February 4-6, 2014 with more than 220 students and professionals from around MN, ND, and WI attending presentations on conservation of mammals & birds, habitat restoration & policy, lead (Pb), and moose ecology and management. The highlight of the meeting was the chapter plenary session, which was organized around the discussion of strategies and solutions to the problem of Pb in fishing tackle and ammunition.

The half-day session covered topics ranging from our current knowledge of the Pb issue, to evidence of distribution in harvested game, and the industry's viewpoints on the challenges of conversion to non-toxic forms of fishing tackle and ammunition. Presenters included Dr. Fredrik Widemo, Director of Science at the Swedish Association of Hunting and Wildlife Management, Dr. Pat Redig founder of The Raptor Center & professor of avian medicine at the University of Minnesota, and John Schulz, retired research scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation and research associate with the University of Missouri. Dr. Brian Hiller, assistant professor at Bemidji State University and Chair of the TWS Wildlife Toxicology Working Group, moderated the half-day session.

The presentations of the plenary session were followed by a lively panel discussion that also included researchers from the MN DNR, Mark Johnson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Sean Strom, Ecotoxicologist for the WI DNR, and Ryan Bronson, representing the

National Shooting Sports Foundation. This discussion, which included viewpoints and comments from the audience, was centered on developing effective strategies for hunters, anglers, resource managers, and sporting manufacturers to work cooperatively to reduce our contribution of Pb into the environment and its effects on wildlife.

As a result of the session and panel discussion, the MN TWS will be developing workshops focused on allowing hunters to test out non-toxic alternatives for big game hunting. These workshops will provide participants with hands-on experience using non-toxic alternatives to Pb ammunition and information on the Pb issue.

Missouri

The bulk of our activities occur during the spring and summer months but the chapter did approve a position statement on voluntary reduction of lead based ammo and fishing tackle at our annual business meeting. In addition, we sent letters to our state legislature opposing a bill that would undermine the authority of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation to regulate fish and wildlife. We are looking forward to a great student workshop in April and a professional development workshop in June.

Ohio

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce its 2014 Spring Meeting. This field trip will discuss the new invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long Horned Beetle, and Thousand Canker Disease to Ohio. Specifically we will be discussing how these invasive species are impacting forest wildlife and counter measures that are being utilized. Please join us at the Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio on May 3rd. For reservations and more information, contact Michael Enright (President-Elect) at michael.enright@metroparks.org.

Wisconsin

Chapter activity has been relatively calm since the flurry of activity associated with hosting The Wildlife Society annual conference in Milwaukee last October. Chapter members played a major role in local arrangements, on-site assistance, field trips, the program, and many other aspects of what turned out to be a well-attended and very successful conference.

See **State Chapters**, next page

State Chapters, cont'd.

The next big event was the series of public hearings and Wisconsin Natural Resources Board meetings dealing with the long list of recommendations contained in the Deer Trustee Report submitted by Dr. James Kroll from Texas. Dr. Kroll was hired by the Wisconsin Governor's office to visit Wisconsin and collect information on the current state of deer management and make recommendations to improve deer management and the deer hunting experience. He did just that. The lengthy report contained sweeping recommendations on chronic wasting disease management, deer research and survey techniques, population goals, and the nuts and bolts of deer hunting....deer management units, registration, harvest permits, deer management assistance for landowners (DMAP), and more. Chapter members were very active in citizen review committees, testimony to the Board, and public education. Only time will tell when it comes to the Deer Trustees recommendations, but virtually all were passed by the Board. Implementation will occur over the next several years and hunters will have to adapt to many changes.

The Wisconsin Chapter held its winter annual meeting in mid-March in Wausau, Wisconsin. The Tuesday evening to Thursday noon event attracted 160 wildlife professionals. The meeting began with a reception hosted by the local arrangements committee for the National TWS Conference. A good time was had by all. Our plenary session focused on the One Health concept of Wildlife Disease and was followed by 3 sessions of student and professional papers and a special session in collaboration with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Planning is already underway for a joint meeting next winter with the Minnesota Chapter of TWS.

Feral Swine Workshop

*Summary by Gary E. Potts,
Vice President of The Wildlife Society*

A workshop entitled "Feral Swine in the Midwest: Problems and Solutions" was held on 26 January 2014 at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Kansas City, MO. The workshop was sponsored by the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. We used the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), National Wildlife Federation, and TWS position statements on feral swine, coupled with the formation last year of the MAFWA ad hoc committee on feral swine to justify the need for the workshop. The workshop was designed to provide attendees the tools to manage feral swine. The workshop included the following topics: reports of work on feral swine in selected states, state/federal agency collaboration, and research on diseases, genetics, and toxicants, policy and media considerations, and the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program. After the workshop, the MAFWA ad hoc committee on feral swine met and discussed current laws and eradication techniques used in the upper Midwest states. The MAFWA ad hoc committee on feral swine produced a summary report of the meeting which will be presented at the 2014 MAFWA Midwest Director's meeting in MI. There were around 80 people who attended the workshop from 14 states, eight universities, and two NGO's. Many attendees attributed their approval for travel to the training opportunity provided in the workshop.

I would like to thank the Executive Board of the NCS for sponsoring the workshop.



Announcements

Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership

The Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership (<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/>) is a voluntary network of partners committed to informed bird conservation decisions through enhanced coordination and exchange of monitoring information. Since 2009, we have been accomplishing these goals through regular workshops, an interactive website, registry of Midwest bird monitoring programs, focused working groups, and a state-of-the-art system for data management and decision support.

Planning for our 2014 regional workshop, Creating Bird Friendly Landscapes in the Midwest, is well underway! The workshop will take place during August 4-8, 2014 at the Country Inn and Suites in Port Washington, WI (only 30 minutes north of Milwaukee, WI). Please mark your calendars - you won't want to miss this event!

- Present a poster or talk on research, monitoring, management, and/or education efforts addressing bird and habitat conservation goals.
- Contribute to collaborative working group sessions that are actively coordinating and integrating monitoring into conservation and management decisions.
- Participate in hands-on workshops on our Midwest Avian Data Center and Bird Conservation at Home.
- Enjoy several birding opportunities, local cuisine, and great camaraderie!

****New this year**** - An evening cookout and social at a nearby birding hotspot, invitations for associated meetings and additional workshops, field trips, an expanded poster session, and more opportunities for students and researchers to present their latest and greatest work!

Detailed agenda, registration form, call for abstracts, travel arrangements, and other details will be available on our [event website](http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/events/2014-midwest-bird-conservation-and-monitoring-workshop).

<<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/events/2014-midwest-bird-conservation-and-monitoring-workshop>>

Would you like to learn more about the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership? Our web community consists of a growing number of professionals and interested parties (now more than 440) who stay engaged by visiting the website, receiving regular updates, and participating in webinars and workshops. The community also includes active individuals who have formed and participate in online work groups oriented around specific bird conservation issues or species of concern. If you are not currently a member, we encourage you to join!

Katie Koch, Migratory Bird Biologist, CWB ®



TWS North Central Section Officers



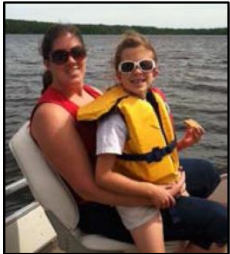
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