



New Jersey Chapter Newsletter

Fall 2015 Meeting:

TOPIC: Wildlife Habitat Restoration with Focus on Hurricane Sandy

When: Wednesday, October 14, 2015; 9:30-3:30

Where: Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center

331 Georgia Tavern Road, Howell 07731

Please RSVP to Ted Nichols at ted.nichols@comcast.net or 609-628-3218 by October 10; RSVP will help for planning. In your RSVP indicate the following:

1. Lunch: Indicate if you will not be purchasing the provided lunch
2. Participate in fish seining at the end of the field trip: **yes or no**

9:30 – 10:00 NJTWS business meeting

Evan Madlinger, NJTWS President

10:00 – 12:00 PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to Hurricane Sandy response and recovery

Eric Schradig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Habitat restoration following Hurricane Sandy at Cape May NWR

Laurel Wilkerson, Cape May NWR

Habitat restoration following Hurricane Sandy at Forsythe NWR

Rebecca Reeves, Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

Evaluating efficacy of beach habitat restoration on the Delaware Bay

Joe Smith, Niles and Associates

Restoring beach-nesting and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds at Stone Harbor Point

NJ Audubon and The Wetlands Institute

Beneficial reuse of dredge material to restore coastal marsh habitat

Dave Golden, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

Restoring Wreck Pond Inlet

Captain Al Modjeski, American Littoral Society

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch: Sausage/meatballs/peppers/onions/veggie chili provided by Applegate's for reasonable fee.

1:00 – 2:00 Tour of Wreck Pond fish passage project

2:00 – 3:00 Fish seining (optional – bring waders if you have them)

Individual Highlights:

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Become involved in the New Jersey Chapter!

Fall is that time of the year the Executive Board positions are up for re-election. The New Jersey Chapter is looking for new individuals interested in becoming involved to bring fresh ideas to the function of the Chapter. Those positions up for re-election this fall (2015) include President and Secretary.

If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact any Board Member for more information and/or to express an interest in becoming involved in a functioning Committee or starting a new Committee. Contact information can be found on the New Jersey Chapter website at <http://wildlife.org/nj/>

Rutgers Student Chapter

We are happy to announce that Rutgers University will be forming a student chapter in the very near future. It will be co-advised by Rutgers University's Dr. Brooke Maslo (brooke.maslo@rutgers.edu) and USDA Wildlife Service's Kim Clapper (Kimberly.S.Clapper@aphis.usda.gov). The details are being finalized and more information will be available at the fall meeting.

Congratulations, Robert Eriksen!

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on recently receiving the prestigious Henry S. Mosby Award for your contributions to wildlife management over your career. The NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society is proud to have you as a valuable member of our chapter. Your work with restoration of the Eastern wild turkey in New Jersey is well known to most wildlife professionals in and around New Jersey. To go from an extirpated population in the late 1970's to a thriving hunted population in just a few years was a remarkable accomplishment. Today's statewide flourishing population of wild turkeys is a reflection of your hard work, scientific knowledge and dedication to New Jersey's wildlife resource.

As you know Henry Mosby was perhaps the authority on wild turkey management as well as one of the founders of The Wildlife Society. It is fitting that you received such an award for your efforts with wild turkeys and all wildlife throughout your successful career. Congratulations again from the NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Sincerely,

Evan Madlinger, President

NJTWS Fall 2015 President's Message

Hope this message finds everyone well as we head into my favorite time of year. Definitely ready for the cooler temperatures fall brings. Hopefully some more rain as well.

This fall the President of the NJ Chapter of The Wildlife position will be up for re-election. As stated when I was re-elected for this term (in a highly contested race) I think it is time I pass on the reigns. In looking back through my past messages I realized I first became the President in fall of 2007. That is completely unbelievable to me that I have been in this position for that long (8 years)! But also serves as further evidence that it is time for a fresh face with some new ideas to guide the direction of NJTWS.

Looking back over the years of my tenure in the position I am happy with where NJTWS is today. We have been able to react and get opinions out on several hot button issues like Trap Neuter Release, the Bear hunt, and Deer hunting. Also I think we have done a great job in having very interesting and well attended bi-annual meetings. Most of this credit goes to Ted and his tireless efforts of working with me and the other officers to come up with good topics, organizing all the logistics and pulling great meeting after great meeting.

I also have been fortunate to be surrounded by many great Biologists that have stepped up over the 8 years in other officer roles with NJTWS. Makes being President pretty easy when surrounded by highly effective people all working to keep NJTWS moving in the right direction. I am particularly happy with two recent accomplishments which include Kim's efforts in getting a good handle on the membership of NJTWS and Beth's efforts on getting us up and running on Facebook. Both great accomplishments. I also think our ability at getting out job announcements and other news to membership has vastly improved from where we were 8 years ago.

We also have done a great job on the scholarship end thanks to Mim Dunne. The last few years in particular I felt we have had really great pools of applicants making deciding a winner difficult. Supporting the future generations of Biologists is such an important component of why NJTWS exists in the first place and I have been happy we have been able to support some great students achieve their degree in the field.

There is still much to be done and there are a couple things I wish we could have accomplished in my 8 years that we did not (at least yet). Despite some good attempts we have yet to fully revitalize the student Chapter at Rutgers. However, thanks to some recent efforts from Brooke Maslo and Kim it seems like we are closer than ever to seeing the student chapter come back.

A second issue I would like to see us further along on is being out in front of the upcoming political and legal issues in NJ. Since Steve's retirement I do not feel like we have done a great job of being aware of upcoming issues in our State. Andrew has done fine with holding down the fort, but I am envious of groups like the NJ Society of American Foresters who seem to be on top of all the hot button issues. I know TWS nationally was promoting setting up a Conservation Affairs Committee for each section and each state chapter that would all be linked together. I have not heard how far along other chapters and sections are with this but we need to work towards setting something similar up in New Jersey. I know the difficulty for myself (and many of you) is that we are not in positions that are looped in the political or legal side of the profession but I think it is important we work towards being more effective in this area.

Lastly we need to review our current by-laws. While the vast majority of the document is fine there are some minor update and revisions which need to be made. This at least is a very easily achieved goal and I will be spear head an effort with a couple volunteers to get them revised for voting on by membership no later than the Spring meeting in 2016. If you are interested in helping with such a task please let me know.

I appeal to all members to consider running for this position. I especially think this is a great position for someone who is young and not that far into their career (like I was). While President seems daunting it really is not and you have plenty of great support to help you along the way. It will look great on your resume, you will learn a lot, and NJTWS will benefit from the energy and enthusiasm you can bring to the table.

Well it has been a great run and I truly have gotten a lot out of being President. I found it to be very rewarding and a great way for me to interact with many of you I never would have in my professional role. I feel I was able to keep the ship afloat and accomplish some nice things, but as always there are many things I wish I accomplished and didn't. I still plan to stay very active with NJTWS so you are not getting rid of me yet! See you all on October 14th and thanks for being members of NJTWS.

Evan Madlinger
NJTWS President

**New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
And
NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society Announce the
Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship**

This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is intended to assist qualified undergraduates in the wildlife/fisheries or conservation education/communication field with college and related expenses. The **NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society** manages the endowment fund and awards the scholarship.

Students who have completed at least one half of the degree requirements for Wildlife/Fisheries majors or Conservation Education/Communications majors may be eligible for this \$1000.00 scholarship. (Conservation Education/Communication majors must have at least 15 credits in the biological sciences to be eligible). Students must reside permanently in New Jersey. New Jersey residents attending school out-of-state are eligible.

The application form must be completed along with two letters of recommendation, a cover letter and an official copy of your transcripts. The deadline for receipt of application and supporting documents is November 1. The award will be bestowed by December 31.

Applications can be found at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/cookhmschol.htm>

Send all information by November 1 to:

Cookingham Scholarship
Attn: Ted Nichols
NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife
2201 County Rt. 631
Woodbine, NJ 08270

Direct questions to: Ted Nichols at Ted.Nichols@dep.nj.gov.

New Jersey in Focus

Managing Resident Canada Geese Protects Sensitive Vegetation in New Jersey Watershed

By Adam Randall, Wildlife Disease Biologist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services-New Jersey
<http://wildlife.org/geese-management-protects-sensitive-vegetation-in-nj/>

The Maurice River and tributaries in Cumberland County, NJ represent an important tidal freshwater habitat for critical emergent vegetation and migrating birds. This vegetation -- including wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) and federally listed sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*) -- provides essential habitat and nutrition for migrating waterfowl and other species. Declining wild rice abundance in the 1990s prompted action to identify the cause and address the loss of vegetation.

An integrated wildlife damage management program has alleviated damage, determined through exclosure plots to have been caused by grazing geese.

Resident geese comprised 20% of the total Canada goose population in 1970 compared to 41% in 1990. National resident Canada goose populations increased about 12.7% annually in the 1990s. As year-round populations in the area increased, acres of wild rice were decimated and marshes were becoming bare as grazing geese pulled vegetation entirely from the soft substrate.

Led by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW), with USDA Wildlife Services (WS) assistance, the project focused on decreasing nesting success, and harassing and removing local resident geese. From 2001 to 2010, the number of geese has declined and the number of nests dropped 70%. Simultaneously, the time invested also declined but the success of vegetation improved.

Initial concerns that the integrated program might impact the area's state-threatened osprey appeared to be unwarranted; osprey nesting doubled during the period and fledging remained similar.

The cooperative effort to protect the imperiled marsh included Partners for Wildlife, The Natural Lands Trust, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and The Nature Conservancy. This cooperative effort is a great example of groups with multiple, varying interests using common ground to accomplish the shared goal of wetland conservation.

New Jersey in Focus Continued

Articles

Empirical Evidence for Factors Affecting Searcher Efficiency and Scavenging Rates at a Coastal, Terrestrial Wind-Power Facility

Kimberly A. Peters,* David S. Mizrahi, and Michael C. Allen

New Jersey Audubon Society, Cape May Bird Observatory, 600 Route 47 N, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210

Abstract

The rapid expansion of wind power development in recent years has accentuated the need to develop standard guidelines for identifying, assessing, and monitoring potential impacts to birds and bats. Although postconstruction mortality estimates generally take into account well-established sources of bias, including searcher efficiency and scavenging loss, methods for addressing these biases can be improved. Currently used bias-adjustment methods differ across studies, do not explicitly account for factors that may affect initial bias estimates, and often use averaged or assumed levels of bias. We examined scavenging and detection trial data from a 3-y study at a small, terrestrial wind-farm in coastal New Jersey. Logistic regression models indicated that carcass size, substrate, and observer all affected carcass detection rates, with larger carcasses more likely to be detected than smaller carcasses, and those located on bare ground or grass more likely to be detected than those on gravel. Known-fate mark-recapture models indicated that scavenging rates were highest within the first 3 d of placement, with some variation among seasons. We suggest that empirically based estimates of factors affecting observer detection and scavenging loss be generated for individual wind-farm mortality studies, because they likely vary across sites and could heavily bias resulting adjustment factors and mortality estimates.

Keywords: bat; bird; carcass trials; collision; scavenge rate; searcher efficiency; wind power

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Introduction

As the demand for renewable sources of energy continues to increase in the United States, so too will the need to understand how these rapidly growing sectors impact wildlife populations. Wind power has been used to commercially produce energy in the United States since the early 1980s and has grown exponentially as an industry. By the end of 2013, there were >900 utility-scale wind facilities operating in 39 U.S. states and Puerto Rico (AWEA 2014). The average height and size of wind turbines have also increased over time (ABC 2011; Wiser and Bolinger 2012). These developments have led to concern about potential negative impacts of wind power development on wildlife, particularly migratory birds and

bats, and have prompted the development of standard guidelines for identifying, assessing, and monitoring those potential impacts (USFWS 2012).

As with any large structures on the landscape, wind turbines can be hazardous to organisms that use the airspace around them (review in Kuvlesky et al. 2007). Bat mortality, for example, has been documented in several postconstruction studies in the United States (Johnson et al. 2004; Arnett et al. 2008; Piorkowski and O'Connell 2010) and Europe (Rydell et al. 2010), mainly caused by collision with blades (Johnson et al. 2004; Baerwald et al. 2008; Cryan and Barclay 2009). Raptors are also susceptible to injury or death by wind-turbines (Hunt 2002; Hoover and Morrison 2005; Smallwood and Thelander 2008), as are migratory songbirds and

