

Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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President's Message

Over the past several months, the board has been holding monthly phone conferences to stay current, relevant, and responsive to wildlife issues in this age of information.

The board supported Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative but this bill, part of the Ag and Environment Omnibus budget bill (H.F. 846), was recently vetoed. We will have to see how the legislature resolves the issues presented in this Omnibus budget bill.

MN TWS also was an important project partner on the LCCMR Hunter's Choice proposal (Alternative Ammo) with the intention that we would be contracted to host 10 workshops (for \$20K). Unfortunately, this did not pass in this legislative cycle, despite being recommended for funding by the LCCMR commission. This proposal has been resubmitted by the Raptor Center for consideration next year and MN TWS will continue to work with the Raptor Center on this issue. By now most of you should be aware of Executive Order 15-10 that directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to discontinue placing additional radio collars on moose. Your wildlife chapter has sent a letter to Governor Dayton stressing that wildlife research, including capture and marking of wild animals, is a fundamental component of science-based wildlife management. Science-based information is essential to making credible, fact-driven decisions for wildlife populations managed in public trust by Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources. It is anticipated that your chapter may have an opportunity to visit with

Governor Dayton on this issue as well as the role that Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society with science based natural resource issues.

MN TWS also signed on to support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF is an important program that provides a large source of funding to local, state, and federal agencies for the purposes of acquiring and conserving public land. This program is set to expire this year, and US Congress is currently considering reauthorizing this fund in order to allow it to continue.

Kristin Fritz, our longtime database coordinator, has left her position with the USFWS at Bigstone NWR and is moving down to Texas with a great opportunity to work with the USFWS in an exciting new area. Congratulations. Mandy



President's Message (continued)

Uhrich, Wildlife Damage Specialist with the MN DNR in Brainerd, has stepped in to fill this important position for MN TWS.

Our summer workshop is currently being planned for late August. This workshop will be held in Big Lake with a site visit to Sherburne NWR. The workshop will focus on conservation grazing, and important management topic within the MN DNR and USFWS. This workshop will be a great forum and learning opportunity for those interested in a conducting conservation grazing on public lands. Look for workshop announcements to be out shortly.

Take the time to enjoy our natural resources this summer, be it on the water, in the forests, or on the prairies. Our contributions that we make during our day jobs make a huge difference to our resources and for the public. Thank you for making Minnesota a beautiful place.

Richard Olsen
President – MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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H: 320/634-4750



2015 Summer Workshop Announcement



*The Minnesota Chapter
of The Wildlife Society*

Save the Date!

Conservation Grazing Workshop



When: August 27, 2015 9am-5pm (8:15 Registration)

Where: The Friendly Buffalo [Big Lake, MN](#)

Site visit to Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

**Lodging available at area [hotels](#)*

Audience: Resource Managers, Biologists, Conservation Partners, Habitat Managers

Focus: Utilizing conservation grazing as a habitat management tool. Examples of managing various habitat types throughout Minnesota will be discussed followed by field site visits to view outcomes.

Anticipated topics include (final agenda sent prior to workshop):

- Lessons learned from grazing in Tallgrass Aspen Parklands (Jonathan Eerkes, TNC)
- Techniques for monitoring the use of conservation grazing on ecological function (Sarah Anderson, USFWS)
- Planning and application of grazing as a land management tool (Jeff Duchene, NRCS)
- Field visits showcasing outcomes in oak savanna

This Workshop hosted by the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. [Become a Member Today!](#)

Registration: \$10 (students), \$15 (MNTWS members), \$20 (non-members) – see attached registration sheet

Workshop information:

Kyle Arola, MNTWS Region 1 Rep:

218-689-5178 kyle.arola32@gmail.com

Regional Reports - News from the Field

MN Chapter TWS Regions



Region 1— Kyle Arola

News from the Northwest

Elk Research

Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) were numerous across the Minnesota prairie and forest transition zone prior to settlement by Europeans. Due mainly to conversion of habitat to agriculture and over-exploitation, elk were extirpated from Minnesota by the early 1900s. Through restoration efforts and immigration, there are currently about 150 elk in north-west Minnesota. The primary objective of this study is to provide baseline information necessary to efficiently accelerate management of elk and their habitats for future enhancement of elk in the state. We will affix Global Positioning System (GPS) collars to 20 adult elk and study their movements and preferences for habitats. This study will provide the first information collected about movements, home ranges, and habitat use by elk in Minnesota. A two-pronged approach, including spatial analysis of elk movements and direct measurement of habitat characteristics, is necessary to classify fine-scale habitats preferred by elk in Minnesota. This information will enable MNDNR to improve management practices and to identify additional patches of habitat likely to be used by elk, which may be managed to aid in enhancing the population size and range extent of elk in the future. The goals of this project are to: 1) describe the home range sizes and movements of adult elk, and 2) character-

ize seasonal habitat use of elk at the landscape level and identify fine-scale habitat features preferred by elk. These data will inform future management of the population and will help design strategies to improve the habitats essential to elk. In subsequent research, MNDNR will use data generated in the proposed study to develop landscape level maps with Global Information Systems (GIS) to identify additional areas ideal for improving elk habitats to promote the enhancement of elk numbers and their range extent.



Glacial Ridge and Agassiz NWRs- Gregg Knutsen, Refuge Manager, USFWS

Spring field work is being initiated on a 3-year study that is examining methylmercury (MeHg) levels in sediment and bio-indicators (i.e., invertebrates, fish, tree swallows) in wetlands at both Glacial Ridge and Agassiz NWRs. This work represents follow-up investigation to previous MeHg studies on both refuges.

News from Red Lake WMA

The spring has been busy with staff conducting surveys on owls/goshawks, frogs, nightjars, woodcock, sharp-tailed grouse and ruffed grouse.

Regional Reports (continued)

A public dragonfly survey will take place in late June. Contact staff for details if interested in participating.

USFWS and MNDNR - Comings and Goings

Amy Westmark started as the new Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Park Rapids in April. Amy came from the Division Ecological & Water Resources in the Central Office where she worked with the Minnesota Biological Survey as a natural resource specialist.



Amy grew up in Brooklyn Park and most recently lived in St. Michael. She received her B.S. in Environmental Science from Bethel University in 2007 and has since taken graduate-level natural resource courses at the University of Minnesota.

Amy held a couple of other DNR St. Paul positions providing support for the EWR regional office and the Regional Operations Division. Prior to that, she worked as a biological science technician at Cape Lookout National Seashore, Yellowstone National Park, and Padre Island National Seashore. Amy was also a field biologist at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and a wetland restoration technician out of Chicago.

She enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping and has already found a place to live on the lake close to Park Rapids.

Greg Henderson started as the new Assistant Area Wildlife Manager in Detroit Lakes in April.

Greg is a Detroit Lakes native. He received a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota in 1998; and has spent time as a MCC Crew Leader, Fisheries Laborer, Wildlife Laborer, Forestry Smoke Chaser, Shallow Lakes Specialist, Wildlife Technician, and most recently as the AAWM in Park Rapids. His local knowledge and years of experience will be a big asset for us here in Detroit Lakes.



Greg enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping and lives with his wife and 3 kids just outside of Detroit Lakes.

Additionally, there have been several folks promoted to Assistant Area Wildlife Managers: Brian Torguson in Detroit Lakes, Jason Lanning at Red Lake Wildlife Management Area, and Jason Strege in Glenwood.

Regional Reports (continued)

After more than 38 years of service and nearly 30 years at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, wildlife biologist Lowell Deede has retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in May 2015. Lowell's career spans portions of five decades and includes multiple stations in FWS Region 3 (Morris, Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes WMDs and DeSoto and Tamarac NWRs) as well as time spent on the prairies of North Dakota while working at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center.

Gregg Knutsen accepted the Refuge Manager position at Glacial Ridge and Rydell NWRs in north-western MN in late April.

Region 2 – Bruce D. Anderson

MN DNR Personnel Updates

After an illustrious, inspiring 31 year career Dave Johnson (DJ)-Assistant Wildlife Manager at Willow



River retired from the DNR in early July. Dave had an impeccable reputation as being a “nice guy”. His Bucket List included achieving the “Grand Slam” for

grouse in a single year (sharp-tail, prairie chicken, spruce grouse and ruffed grouse). He is still pursuing the Grand Slam. In retirement he intends to travel and camp around the state and ramping up his fishing and hunting excursions. DJ's final request to his former co-workers was that he “never wants to hear another deer hunting story”. Dave's sense of humor and dedication will be missed.

Scott Lewis was hired as a seasonal Laborer, Trades, and Equipment (LTE) out of the DNR Willow River office in June. Scott will work 5 months a year, typically May – September. He comes to us from private industry and has a diverse background in equipment operation and trades. Most recently Scott was working for Industrial Lubricant Company as a lead technician.

Wolf Trapping

The US Geological Survey's MN Wolf Project (L. David Mech and Shannon Barber-Meyer) and their volunteer technicians started live-trapping wolves near Ely, MN in the Superior National Forest for radio collaring purposes on May 19, 2015. Their goal is to collar approximately 14 wolves with either GPS or VHF collars. Radio collaring will continue into October 2015.

Prescribed Burning

The NE Region of the DNR completed prescribed burns on approximately 1500 acres this spring. The primary objective of these burns was to enhance sharp tail grouse habitat. Other species most notably woodcock and golden winged warblers also benefit from these projects.

Minnesota Loggers Education Program

Two workshops sponsored by the U of M Cloquet Forestry Center and the Minnesota Loggers Education Program were conducted earlier this summer. The workshops focused on Timber Sale Design from a Wildlife Habitat perspective. Basic needs of

Regional Reports (continued)

wildlife species were reviewed both in the classroom and in the field. Loggers were introduced to taking a practical look at timber sale design through the eyes of a wildlife manager. The workshops were well attended by the logging industry and agency managers.

Region 3— No Report

Region 4—No Report

Region 5 – No Report

Region 6– Bill Severud

National Wetland Inventory Update for Minnesota—Doug Norris

The Minnesota DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division recently completed updated NWI maps for 36 counties in southern Minnesota. With completion of this phase of the project, updated wetland map data is now available for the entire southern third of the state, including the Twin Cities metro area (see map). The data are available for download through the Minnesota Geospatial Commons and can also be displayed on an interactive mapping application on the DNR's website (links below). The data will eventually be incorporated into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's national "Wetlands Mapper." Mapping is currently underway for northeast Minnesota (completion in 2016) and mapping will begin later this summer for the central part of the state. Statewide completion is expected by 2020. The NWI update project is funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. For additional information, contact Steve Kloiber, DNR Wetlands Mapping and Monitoring Coordinator (steve.kloiber@state.mn.us).

Wetland map data available at:

- <https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/water-nat-wetlands-inv-2009-2014>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/wetlands/map.html>



Student Chapter Reports

University of Minnesota

Fisheries and Wildlife Club, UMN Gabriella Barnas

The Fisheries and Wildlife Club recently finished up a very exciting spring semester full of great opportunities, including a visit to the Wildlife Science Center in Columbus, MN; bear den monitoring with DNR researcher and bear biologist Dave Garshelis in Cloquet, MN; attending the annual TWS meeting for the Minnesota and Wisconsin chapters, where the club finished in 2nd place for the annual Quiz Bowl; and stream restoration at Eagle Creek in Savage, MN, where we worked with the DNR to improve fish and wildlife habitat. We also held officer elections for the coming year and would like to congratulate Gabriella Barnas (President), Dan Larson (VP of Fisheries), Ryan Keenan (VP of Wildlife), Amanda Zak (Secretary), Jessica Colbaugh (Treasurer), and Melissa Boman (Head of Design and Outreach) on being elected. While we are on hiatus for the summer, we are looking forward to getting off to a quick and active start in the fall.



Student Conclave

The 2015 North Central Student Conclave was an unprecedented success in large part due to your generous \$1500 donation. This year the conclave was held at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods in Sandstone, Minnesota which provided the perfect setting to allow students from all over the northcentral states to come together and learn from wildlife professions. The two colleges co-hosting the event were University of Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State University.

A total of 107 students and three student advisors attended the conclave. The university that attended was: Iowa State University, Lake Superior State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Tech, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Northern Michigan University, Purdue University, South Dakota State University, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, University of Minnesota Crookston, and Bemidji State University.

Students arrived on Friday, March 27, 2015 and were presented with a gift bag filled with wildlife related goodies from sponsors. The students were given a tour of the facilities and participated in a fishing lure painting activity. Dinner the first night included a speech from the keynote speaker, MN DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, who spoke about how to become effective future wildlife managers. Many of the students then attended a bonfire after Commissioner Landwehr finished speaking.

Saturday hosted the day of main events where students were able to attend workshops and seminars. Saturday also included several contests including: wildlife photography, wildlife calling, and quiz bowl competition. The quiz bowl competition was highly competitive with the winning team, University of Minnesota Crookston, taking home the prize of a wood burned plaque.

Sunday's events included the club leader meeting where officers from each of the attending college's wildlife societies meet to discuss future improvements of the conclave and who would host the conclave for 2016.

Overall, the conclave was a huge success and set a new standard for years to come. The conclave would not have been possible without the contributions from sponsors such as you. Your contribution was acknowledged on the sponsor poster located at the registration table and in the main dining hall for each meal. We also acknowledged your contribution during the opening and closing ceremonies. Thank you very much for helping us provide such a positive experience for the Conclave here in Minnesota!

The list of guest speakers and topics that were presented on at the conclave include the following:

- Mike Schrage – Tribal Lands, Elk Restoration
- Mark Ditmer – Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Bears
- John Erb – Furbearer Management
- Ross Heir – Prairie Management
- Rick Brusewitz – Fisheries Management
- Lou Cornicelli – Human Dimensions of Wildlife
- Jeff Duschene – Prescribed Grazing
- Curt Vacek – Wildlife Photography
- Ray Norgaard – Wetland Management
- Tony Hewitt – Managing for Oak Savannah
- Dan Svedarsky – Prairie Dancers

There were additionally several workshops that provided hands on experience for the students that attended. The guest speakers and workshops include the following:

- Dave Rave – Waterfowl Wing Identification
- Mandy Uhrich – Wildlife Depredation
- Brian Hiller and Peter Sahr – Copper Bullets
- John Loegering – Radiotelemetry, Passerine Mist Netting

Voices From the Swamp

Voices from the Swamp 7 - Meeting the Press by Ray Norrgard

Across the country, the printed news media is dropping its coverage of the outdoors, and outdoor reporters, in favor of additional coverage of professional sports. We are very fortunate in Minnesota to still have one of the largest, and relatively savvy, outdoor corps of reporters and columnists in the nation. That is good news even if it means that wildlife professionals are, at times, subjected to less than pleasant circumstances.

The vast majority of reporters work hard to get stories right. Having said that, the truth is that on any given day reporters have to absorb, digest and coherently tell often complicated stories that must be told in very limited space and presented in such a way that readers/listeners/viewers will care enough to read them. They generally don't have the luxury of researching things for days or weeks, much less the years that are the measure of academic and scientific standards. And editors may inadvertently add or delete important nuances when making grammatical changes.

There is a fair amount of guidance floating around about how to talk to the media when that dreaded call from a reporter gets sent to your phone. While sound, most of these fail to mention some of the most important survival tips.

1. Start by making sure you have the reporter's correct name, media outlet, and contact information such as phone number, email, and address.
2. Give yourself time to pull together your thoughts. The best way to do this is with two questions, a request, and a promise. First, ask the reporter to specify what information they are seeking. Second, ask what their deadline is. Third, explain to the reporter that you are in the middle of something right now that needs to be dealt with (aren't we always?) and promise to get back to them in 15 minutes or an hour or the next day, depending on the complexity of the information and the reporter's deadline.
Buying a little time will benefit both you and the reporter. Pulling together the needed information and organizing your thoughts will save the reporter time during and after the interview. Be sure to identify acronyms and technical terms ("jargon") that the reporter, as well as their readers or listeners, are not likely to be familiar with. Use full names rather than acronyms in your replies and explain or find substitutes for technical words or phrases.
Choose a time that gives the reporter plenty of leeway before their deadline in case they need to follow up. This can be a challenge when the reporter is up against a tight deadline as they often are. Don't be shocked to hear they need to have their story into the editor the same day as the call.
3. Before you return the call get it clear in your mind what you want to communicate. If possible, practice reducing your message to "sound bites". That doesn't mean you don't go into deeper explanation. What it does mean is that concise statements help to open and close responses and help



Voices From the Swamp (continued)

the interviewee stay on message. Reporters often like sound bites because they are straightforward to quote.

4. When possible, pull together brochures, reports, or web sites that the reporter can access if they want additional details or information. Just don't be surprised if they seem unwilling to take the time to read the information themselves. Identify and check with others whom the reporter may also want to interview. Checking their availability also gives them a heads up that a reporter may be calling.

Most reporters feel much safer relying on written material than quotes. Phone connections, speaking styles, and voice tones can make taking notes or transcribing tapes challenging.

5. Clear other stuff away before you return the call so you will not be distracted. That can mean clearing your desk, closing the door (in those rare occasions you have one), turning off email, facing away from the window, or kenneling the dog. You need, and the reporter deserves, to have full attention paid to the interview. Parked vehicles and personal bathrooms can be handy places to reduce background noise during off hours.

6. If the reporter is with print media, offer to provide photos if you have them. TV reporters obviously prefer video but will sometimes use photos if the image saves broadcast time or is titillating. Offering to guide to a construction, survey, or project site that fits or supports the story will be appreciated by the reporter (even if they do not have time to take advantage of the offer) and can help you tell a complete story. Follow up the interview by email with a thank you and printed information that clearly reiterates and supports your chosen message.

7. Request corrections when inaccurate information is published. Request them calmly in a matter of fact kind of way. Mistakes happen and your manner should reflect that reality; however, insist that mistakes and misinterpretations be corrected. If inaccurate information is posted online it can go viral and you lose the opportunity for correction. Most media outlets will post an editor's note on a story that's been corrected. That action can be critical in avoiding perpetuation of inaccuracies. Schedules are usually very tight in newsrooms, and it is easier and faster to repeat someone else's story on the assumption that they have the facts right. Viral sharing websites completely rely on this technique.

The media is a valuable asset to our profession. Our greatest enemy is ignorance rather than criticism. Developing a trusted relationship with local or statewide reporters will pay dividends far into the future even if we occasionally have to thicken our skins.

Minnesota TWS — Chapter History

HISTORY AND RETIRED WILDLIFERS - Bill Berg

Many DNR folks know of my interest in history, especially DNR Wildlife history. I am fortunate to have worked at a time when many of the old “original” Wildlifers were still around, and to have worked with a great bunch from the late 1960s to 2001, and also, to know many of the new employees as well. Recently, while reading an MS Thesis on Isle Royale sharp-tailed grouse by Christian A. Martin, I ran across citations by the late Andy Ammann, Bud Heinselman, Gordon Gullion, Larry Krefting, Bob Farnes, Henry Hanson, and Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, and I thought “gosh— how fortunate I am to have known each of them! Did I work at the right time or what?” The many phases of my job also provided me with the opportunity to work with every natural resource agency in the state, including Tribal governments and industry. On top of that, Minnesota worked closely with all surrounding states and provinces, so I got to know folks there, too.

Long before retirement in 2001, I began gathering old articles, artifacts, and contact information, and that effort continues today. I know others in other agencies, mainly in USFWS and USFS, who share my history passion, and who also have historical knowledge and collections. Some of my most precious moments in recent years have been informal discussions with some of those “old timers” who are still around. Other times, valuable history is gathered at retirement celebrations, memorial dedications, and sadly, funerals. That old Wildlifers are always the last ones to leave these events attest to the valued conservation family we all work with.

Examples of these treasures are some of the late Bill Longley’s writings, aided by information from living legends like Bob Jessen, Dick Wettersten, Jay Janecek, Henry Wulf, and Gerald Bue (Bue, together with Dave Wiley, are the last two surviving “Original Game Managers”). I believe that everyone in natural resources should know something about the background of their work area, and how it got that way. Over the years I have developed a history of all Conservation Department/Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Field Stations, and the Area Managers who worked there. Still incomplete (as is any history), this is available to anyone (bltrbrg@frontier.com). There are lots of other history jottings in the collection, mainly by the late Bill Longley, and perhaps these can be included in future *MNTWS Newsletters*.

So why involve MNTWS? First, everyone should know their roots, like “when did my field station start, and who started it? Second, many retired Wildlifers in all agencies value this history stuff, and those still in MNTWS might recognize a name or two. Perhaps they also know of an old file cabinet in the shed with priceless information. And third, perhaps some retirees who dropped MNTWS might come back into the fold. So where will all this stuff end up? Remember, history is never finished. I personally hope it’s not just a dusty folder in the DNR Library in St. Paul. In 2014, Wisconsin DNR Wildlife published an outstanding book on the history of their agency. Perhaps that should be our goal as well? At least, if some history from any agency were published in the *MNTWS Newsletter*, it would have a repository.

So please let your MNTWS Regional Representatives know if you have an interest in history, and if the MNTWS should even be working on it? Or should there be a wildlife history article in each MNTWS Newsletter? Perhaps you would consider writing one?

Other Items...

Oldest Banded Bald Eagle Dies, But Sets New Longevity Record

by [Elizabeth Goldbaum](#), Staff Writer | June 16, 2015 02:20pm ET

The oldest known banded bald eagle was killed by a car on a road in western New York on June 2, according to New York state officials. But the 38-year-old bird of prey surpassed the previous longevity record for this species by five years, which could be a sign that conservation efforts are helping bald eagles make a comeback, officials say.

"This record eagle is a testament to the diligent conservation and restoration work done under New York's Bald Eagle Restoration Program," Marc Gerstman, executive deputy commissioner of the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), said in a statement.

After bald eagles nearly went extinct in the 1960s, they were listed as an endangered species in the lower 48 states under the federal Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966. In 1972, a national ban was passed on the pesticide DDT, because the chemical inhibited eagle eggs from hatching in the nest. Taking, or killing, bald eagles was also prohibited as part of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, which eventually gave rise to New York state's Bald Eagle Restoration Project of 1976. Intensive restoration programs in the late 1970s slowly rebuilt the bird's numbers, and since 1999, the population of breeding bald eagles has increased each year, according to the Department of Environmental Conservation's New York State Bald Eagle Conservation Plan. Gerstman commended the DEC's efforts to conserve habitats and maintain clean air and water for bald eagles and other wildlife.

Eagles and other large birds are sometimes banded to help researchers track their migration patterns and assess the birds' health. The ring-shaped bands fit on the birds' legs but don't cause any harm. Banding records indicate that the record-setting eagle was a nestling, or too young to leave its nest, when it was originally brought from Lake Puposky in northern Minnesota to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Seneca Falls, New York, as part of the state's Bald Eagle Restoration Program. It was one of five young eagles brought to and raised at Montezuma.

The eagle was banded in August 1977, when it was only a few months old, DEC officials said. Four years later, once it reached its breeding age, the eagle nested in Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, about an hour's drive from the refuge. The eagle, called 03142, was a father to many eaglets over the ensuing years. Peter Nye, a retired DEC wildlife biologist who started New York's Bald Eagle Restoration Program, said that when researchers banded 03142, they "had no idea how very special and significant this young bald eagle would become to our nascent bald eagle restoration program."

"Based on his recent recovery near this site, we have to assume he has been the resident male, breeding here for the past 34 years," Nye said in a statement. "That's quite a stretch, and likely a record in itself." Over 13 years, from 1975 to 1988, 198 bald eagles were collected from nests in other states and were raised in New York. Today, New York hosts 350 pairs of nesting bald eagles. The 38-year-old eagle was found with a recently killed rabbit nearby and appeared to have been hit by a vehicle. Vehicle collisions cause more than 30 percent of known eagle deaths, according to the DEC. "His longevity, 38 years — although ingloriously cut short by a motor vehicle — is also a national record for known life span of a wild bald eagle. All I can say is, hats off to you, 03142 — job well done!" Nye said.

Submit Your Wings

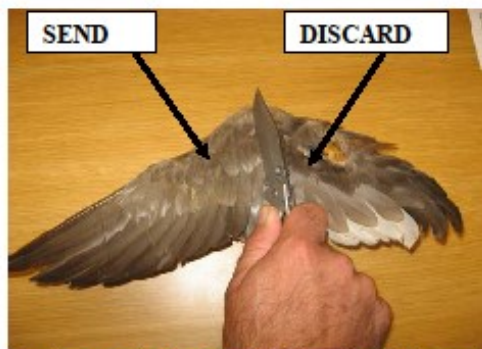
Help in DNR's landscape genetics study by submitting wings from sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken.

Collection and storage protocol for hunter collected sharp-tailed grouse wings.

It is imperative that we have as precise information as possible regarding the location of the bird. Please make sure that the correct form is attached to the correct bird.

1. Cut the wing at the radius and ulna joint (See photo below for depiction).
2. Sex birds by looking at tail feathers; See photos below (if not certain of sex do NOT record it).
3. Staple or permanently attach the harvest information form directly to the tip of the wing.
4. Store wings in paper envelopes at all times.
5. Do not let wings sit in a hot vehicle for any length of time. Wings may be temporarily stored in a cooler with ice in the shade. Do not let them go cold, hot, cold, hot etc. If you do not have a cooler and will continue hunting, place the wings under the vehicle or in any other spot (away from dogs) with constant shade.
6. **DO NOT STORE THE WINGS IN A REFRIGERATOR OR FREEZER AT ANY TIME!**
7. If wings cannot be sent immediately they can simply be stored in an office environment as long as they are in a dark and dry place with relatively constant temperature. Preferably ship the wing or wings the next day or as soon as possible. This will help ensure a higher quality sample.
8. Mail the wings to Eric Nelson at the address below:

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
Animal Damage Program
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401



Cut primary section of wing at wing joint and send primary section.



Central tail feathers from male and female sharp-tails. The coloration of these feathers is an indicator of sex. The four feathers on the left come from females. Note the alternating buff-black horizontal striping. The four male tail feathers on the right show more solid, and the striping pattern is more vertical and not as consistent as in the female feathers.

Photo from Upland Game Identification, North Dakota Game and Fish



Photo from Upland Game Identification, North Dakota Game and Fish

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources 2014 Sharp-tailed Grouse Wing Collection.

Date of harvest: / / Collector: (Optional)

Sex (only circle one if certain of the sex, see handout): Male Female Land Ownership: Public Private

State of Collection: County of Collection:

Township/Range/Section: / / Example: T152N R38W S21

GPS Location if Possible (in UTM):

Habitat Notes: Please circle the best description of the habitat in which the bird was harvested. Feel free to add a brief description to better describe the habitat.

CU- Cultivated Field UG = Undisturbed Grass BG= Bog PA= Pasture (grazed)

HY= Hayland (cut or mowed) BL= Brushland or Shrub ST= Stubble from small grains or row crop

Staple This End

----- Cut here -----

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources 2014 Sharp-tailed Grouse Wing Collection.

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HY= Hayland (cut or mowed) BL= Brushland or Shrub ST= Stubble from small grains or row crop

Staple This End

Other Items... (continued)

Wildlife Capture, Immobilization and Handling Course

- Safe restraint, immobilization and handling of free-ranging animals
- How to safely handle animals with and without chemical restraint
- Legal and ethical procedures
- Diverse capture methods, immobilizing agents, and handling procedures
- Hands-on capture and immobilization of captive wildlife for example: black bears and mountain lions

Course level: Professional level course intended for field personnel and students enrolled in related coursework

Our course is unique in that it provides actual hands on training with live wildlife.



Included in the course fee is the 2012 Fourth Edition of the **Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization** (\$50 value). This four-color Handbook is 448 pages long and has drug doses for over 500 species. The Handbook covers legalities of drug possession and use; types of drugs used for animal capture; equipment used for animal capture; animal capture procedures and techniques; animal medical treatment; and human emergency medicine, supported by over 2,500 references.

CERTIFICATES ARE AWARDED upon satisfactory completion of the program.

Instructor Bios:



Terry J. Kreeger retired as the chief veterinary officer of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He holds Bachelor degrees in Journalism and Veterinary Science, a Masters degree in Wildlife Biology, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Wildlife Management and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Wyoming (Veterinary Sciences) and the University of Minnesota (Fisheries and Wildlife). His research interests include wildlife capture and anesthesia, physiology and behavior, animal contraception, and wildlife diseases. He has captured wildlife and trained others to capture wildlife throughout North America and in Russia, Africa, and Asia.

Glenn D. DelGiudice has been Deer Project Leader in the Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources since 1990 and Moose Project Leader since 2012. He is an adjunct professor and has been a member of the graduate faculty in the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology since 1992. Glenn earned his B.S. degree from Cornell University, a M.S. degree from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His primary research interests focus on nutritional ecology and physiology and relationships with environmental variation and population performance. His 36 years of research experience has involved the capture, chemical immobilization, and handling of white-tailed deer, timber and tundra wolves, elk, moose, caribou, desert mule deer, peccary, and a variety of primates.



Other Items... (continued)



Dave Garshelis is a wildlife research scientist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Previously he studied black bears in the Smoky Mountains for his M.S. degree (University of Tennessee) and sea otters in Alaska for his PhD (University of Minnesota). Since 1983, as bear project leader for the MDNR, he has conducted studies of black bears across their geographic range in Minnesota, including nearly 2,000 animal handlings. As an adjunct associate professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Minnesota, he also advises graduate students working on studies of most of the other bear species of the world. Since 2004 Dave has served as co-chair of the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group, focusing attention on conservation of all bears.

Peggy Callahan is executive director of the Wildlife Science Center in Columbus, MN. Peggy earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Carleton College and began working for the "Wolf Project" in August 1985. For five years she managed the colony for research, focusing on refining chemical immobilization techniques for use in the field. In addition to her wolf time, Peggy also assisted with studies involving Black Bear, Red Fox, White-tailed Deer and Wolves in the field, including assisting with the Isle Royale wolf captures in 1989 and 1991. When federal funding for the Wolf Project ceased in 1991, the Wildlife Science Center was created and co-founded by Peggy to keep the facility open. After three years of intensive building and program planning, the Wildlife Science Center opened its doors to the public as a non-profit education and research facility.



John Hart is a Wildlife Biologist/ District Supervisor with the USDA-Wildlife Services program in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. John has been involved with wolf depredation control work in Minnesota since 1989 and received the Beef Industry Service Award in 2012. In addition to the wolf work, John is involved with beaver and cormorant damage management and wildlife hazard management at Minnesota airports. John has a B.S. degree in wildlife from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. When not working, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

J. L. David Smith is a Professor at the University of MN, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. His research focuses on the biology and conservation of mammals in Asia, including individual based modeling of large mammals, metapopulation structure of large mammals in relation to landscape patterns and human-wildlife conflict. Most of his personal research has focused on tigers but he has advised students studying a number of other species (e.g. gaur, banteng, fishing cat, sloth bear, snow leopard). Dave's current research is in Thailand and Nepal but he has also worked in China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh. Through his research he has also developed study abroad programs at U Minnesota for undergraduates in Thailand and Nepal.



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Course Fees:

Early registration: \$800.00 per person if registrations postmarked prior to August 17th, 2015

General registration: \$850.00 per person if registrations postmarked after August 16th, 2015.

All registrations include the Handbook of Wildlife Chemical Immobilization (a \$50 value).

Other Items... (continued)

**Wildlife Capture, Immobilization and Handling Course
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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Other Items... (continued)

Minnesota Turtle Crossing Tally and Count



PROJECT PARTNERS

HerpMapper
Minnesota Herpetological Society
MNDNR - Nongame Wildlife Program
Three Rivers Park District

Roads have been an issue for turtles for as long as cars have been driving around. The density of roads and cars has increased to a point where this hazard can impact the long-term survival of some turtle populations. Fortunately, there are relatively simple road improvements and habitat modifications that can be made to reduce the number of turtles crossing roads. These range from things like dedicated wildlife underpasses, modified culverts, wildlife-friendly curbs, and fences to things like enhanced nesting habitat. These mitigation efforts can be expensive and are not always embraced by highway departments.

The best way to show highway departments the need for protection or at least future planning is tangible evidence showing which road stretches have a significant number of turtle crossings. State and County biologists cannot collect enough information across the State to identify all the important crossings, but public volunteers can help to provide that information. The use of online mapping and mobile phone apps allow adult volunteers to submit locations of turtle crossings.

***Do not put yourself in harms way to protect or document turtles
or other wildlife observed on a roadway.***

DATA COLLECTION

Individuals are encouraged to submit records of both live and dead turtles at crossings (other amphibian and reptile data also welcome). The focus is on the seven-county Twin Cities area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington), but observations from other parts of the state are welcome and encouraged. All observations will be submitted through the Herpmapper.org website, or by using HerpMapper's Mobile Mapper app on your smartphone or tablet (preferred). (Appendix 1 and 2)

Creating a HerpMapper account

- 1) Go to: <http://www.herpmapper.org/register>
- 2) Create your account by completing the requested information: E-mail/Username/Password. Done!
- 3) Login and click on "Mobile App" in the menu at the top.
- 4) Write down the your E-mail/Username and API Key. Done

Other Items... (continued)

Setting up the app on your smartphone or tablet. (You DO need to be in WIFI or data service for these steps.)

- 1) Download "Mobile Mapper" app from Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- 2) Open the Mobile Mapper app and allow it to use your location if prompted.
- 3) Click "Add New Service."
- 4) Enter the e-mail address you used to signup on HerpMapper.
- 5) Enter your "API Key" that you wrote down.
- 6) Enter the Configuration URL: <http://www.herpmapper.org/mobile/mn>
- 7) Check "Use as Default Service."
- 8) Click "Save Settings."

How to enter data on your smartphone or tablet. (You DO NOT need to be in WIFI or data service for this part.)

- 1) Take photo of the turtle (optional see step # 6).
- 2) Open the Mobile Mapper app.
- 3) Select "New Record" or "New Record" for "MN HerpMapper" (if not the default).
- 4) On the location page, be sure to "refresh" until your location accuracy is 25m or less (Ideally 5-10m). NOTE: If using a phone or tablet without data service, it may take a minute or two to lock onto your GPS for the first record (it will get quicker). Also note that the map will NOT generate without data service. **This is OK.** Hit continue.
- 5) Select "Browse Taxa" to see a list of amphibian and reptile species for MN (or select "Unknown" if you are not sure). Report even small parts of road-killed turtles.
- 6) Next, take a photo of the turtle (or choose image from your gallery if you have already taken the photo). Hit continue.
- 7) Click "Deceased" if the turtle is dead on the road. Feel free to add notes such as current weather conditions if alive on the road.
- 8) Review record and hit "Save Record" at the bottom of the screen.
- 9) **Upon arriving home, be sure to open the app and select "Pending Records." Then select "Sync Records." (You must be in WIFI or have device data.)**

Note: If your mobile device is allowed to enter an idle state it may disrupt the communication and result in only a partial upload of your records or an error message. To avoid this, observe the app and do not allow your phone to idle.

If you run into issues, contact: info@herpmapper.org (even if data seems to disappear from the pending records page, it can usually be recovered – do not worry).

RESULTS

Data collected will be used to generate maps of known turtle crossing areas that can be shared with and used by conservation agencies and highway departments to prioritize and develop safer crossing areas. In addition, data can be collected in areas after mitigation strategies are put into place to better determine their efficacy.

Other Items... (continued)

Appendix 1 – Mobile App instructions

Download Mobile Mapper

Mobile Mapper is available for Android and iOS (Apple) devices. To download Mobile Mapper, use the following links:

[Google Play](#)

[iTunes Store](#)

For more information about using the app, visit: <http://www.herpmapper.org/mobile/mapper>

Appendix 2 - Creating Records Using A Computer

You can create records from past observations using images or sound files stored on your computer:

1. After logging in to HerpMapper, right-click on your name in the upper right-hand corner and select "Upload Files".
2. From the Upload page, click "+ Add files..." and navigate to one or more image files saved on your computer. HerpMapper accepts ".jpg" and ".mp3" file types for vouchers.
3. After one or more voucher files are selected, click on the blue "Start Upload" box to upload multiple images, or individually select the "Start" box to the right of each voucher.
4. After the upload is complete, click again on your name in the upper right-hand corner and select "My Files".
5. On the Voucher Files page, each selected voucher file has a check box in the upper left corner. Check each box (or select the "Toggle All" box on the right) and then click on the "Create New Record" button.
6. Fill in the fields on the Add Record page:
 - o "Species" is a search-and-pick field - for example, if you type "Chrysemys", a pick list with all taxa containing that word will appear, and you can select from the list. You can also type in a common name (such as "Racer") and get a pick list. **If you are unsure of the species, you may leave this field blank.**
 - o **Note:** Some cameras include metadata in the image files (such as date, time, geo-location, etc.). HerpMapper will auto-fill this information into the record. **Be sure to double-check information for accuracy.**
 - o If you do not have any data for the longitude and latitude fields, you can use the interactive map to scroll to the correct location. You can switch between Map View and Satellite View. Use the + - slider or a mouse wheel to zoom in; right-click and hold to move around the map. When you find the correct location, click and then release to set the location pointer. The pointer can be moved and set again with another click. Try to be as detailed as possible. Once the location is set, the Latitude, Longitude, Altitude, Accuracy, Datum, and Coordinate Source fields are filled.
 - o Select the appropriate life stage for the Age field.
 - o Additional Notes field: This field is visible to the public, so take care with what information you enter here - be sure to exclude locality descriptions in this field (do not add park names, etc.). Things to include if known:
 - Total number observed in this area. Natural history observations (mating, eating, courtship, etc.).
 - Method used if actively searching for amphibians / reptiles (e.g., found under log, alive on the road, etc.).
 - Specimen gender, approximate size, or other macro- or micro-habitat variables.
 - o Private Notes field: This field is only visible to yourself and HerpMapper partners. Extra locality descriptions and other important information that you do not wish the public to see may be entered in this field.
 - o Click "Save Record."
 - o Double check that all information is correct (including the mapped location).
7. Return to "My Files" and repeat with additional vouchers.

Viewing Your Records

To view records you have entered, click on your name in the upper right-hand corner and select "My Records." To sort / filter your records, expand the "Search Options" section at the top of the My Records page.

For more information about HerpMapper, visit: <http://www.herpmapper.org/help>

Also see the HerpMapper FAQs: <http://www.herpmapper.org/faq>

Board Member Information



Jill Fejszes is the new chair of the prairie farmland committee. She is a native of Michigan, where she grew up in a dairy farming family near Lake Michigan. She graduated from Michigan State University in 2011 with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife, and spent time working seasonal jobs with the Nature Conservancy doing dune and prairie restoration. Jillian worked for a CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) in Michigan for a year and a half before coming to Thief River Falls to work as the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for Pennington, West Polk and Marshall Counties.

Prior to her work with natural resources, Jill obtained a BS in Sociology and Psychology from Central Michigan University in 2003 and spent over 8 years working in the social work field before deciding to head back to school.

Jill enjoys hiking, camping and in general being outdoors. Jill and her husband are enjoying the plants and wildlife of Northwest Minnesota and are glad they got the chance to move out here.

Where's the Board Meeting Minutes??

Check out the minutes from the latest board meeting on the TWS website at:

<http://drupal.wildlife.org/minnesota/minutes>



2015 Chapter Governing Board

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Awards: Thom Soule souletp@bektel.com

COWCH: Vacant

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Dawn Plattner plattner12@hotmail.com

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Historian/Archivist: John Moriarty john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us

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BWSR Drainage Workgroup: Ray Norrgard Ray.norrgard@state.mn.us

Beltrami Island LUP Citizen Input Panel: Margaret Anderson petrel@mncable.net

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