



THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER

Newsletter of The New England Chapter
Of The Wildlife Society
Fall 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

New England Chapter TWS Annual Fall Workshop

Please join the New England Chapter of the Wildlife Society for the annual fall workshop: *Management of Declining Habitats in New England*. The workshop will be held October 21 at Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, MA. Please see the President's message and attached draft agenda on page 6 for additional details. A finalized agenda will be emailed to the membership shortly once all presenters are confirmed.

TWS National Conference

The Wildlife Society's 21st annual conference will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA October 25-30, 2014. Please visit <http://wildlifesociety.org/> for more information.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Chapter Members,

I want to first thank you for your continued support and participation in the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Your involvement has helped the chapter grow, build professional relationships, and enable us to host quality workshops. That said, I hope that you are able to join us at our annual fall workshop! This year it will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, MA. The theme of the workshop is "Management

of Declining Habitats in New England". You will hear from experts from across the region in the morning and it will be followed by a site walk of one of the Commonwealth's top biodiversity sites. Don't miss out on this great opportunity for professional development and to enjoy fall in New England!

Sincerely,
David Paulson

*David Paulson, President
New England Chapter of TWS*

STATE REPORTS

Connecticut

In the past, crossbows were allowed for hunting deer in CT only during January and in urban deer management zones. Use of crossbows for hunting was expanded last fall to help recruit younger hunters and retain aging hunters as archery hunters. Now crossbows can be used statewide during the entire archery deer seasons. During the first year (2013), the number of women and youth hunters purchasing archery permits and harvesting deer increased. Overall, almost 1/3 of the deer harvested were taken by crossbows and the total archery harvest was a record high (6,046) and for the first time exceeded the total harvest taken by shotgun-rifle deer hunters. Harvest by crossbow hunters is expected to increase this year.

Connecticut Coastal Initiative is a partnership of DEEP, Town of Tolland, Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and Branford Land Trust receiving almost \$1million in funding from NAWCA. The goal is to link estuaries and marine waters in Long Island Sound. In total this project will conserve 614 acres and restore 270 acres of wetlands in an area that contains that largest concentration of migratory shorebirds in CT and 20% of the migratory waterfowl in CT.

The CT State Wildlife Action Plan is currently being revised. Conservation organization, scientists, and the public can stay current by following @CT_SWAP on twitter and can contribute to the revision by submitting species-specific information and comments online <http://tinyurl.com/ob7kny4>.

The field work phase of a collaborative project between DEEP Wildlife Division and UConn to estimate the population size of black bears in Connecticut was successfully completed. A total of 150 hair corrals were established in northwest CT and monitored weekly during summers of 2013 and 2014. This effort resulted in 514 black bear hair samples in 2013 and 750 black bear hair samples in 2014. The next phase of the project includes using genetic techniques to obtain individual ID from each hair sample, and then a spatial mark-recapture analysis.

<http://wfcc.uconn.edu/BlackBearsinConnecticut.php>

An online photograph guide to Connecticut's amphibians and reptiles was launched. The site provides photos of characteristics used for identification of all species, as well as, Report It forms for non-native herps and potential cases of snake fungal disease. <http://www.ctherpetology.com/>

Tracy Rittenhouse, CT Representative to the Executive Committee

Massachusetts

MA Deer Project Leader David Stainbrook noted that 70% of hunters harvesting White-tailed Deer during last season's Archery and Primitive Arms seasons utilized the online reporting option. An added option for this season is reporting from a mobile device; it will be interesting to follow how hunters respond to these options.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board has approved recommendations for a Youth Deer Hunt in this state. The next step for the plan is the public hearing process which will likely occur in Oct. 2014.

MA Bear Project Leader Laura Conlee-Hajduk reported that with two days left in the MA September Black Bear Season a total of 168 bears have been taken. This equals the previous highest harvest for a September season. With time remaining, including a Saturday, that record will likely fall this year.

As of September 8, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters staff will be back in operation in Westborough. The new state-of-the-art, energy-neutral Headquarters building, which has been under construction for the past two years, is located on the footprint of the old building on the Westborough Wildlife Management Area. Phone numbers and email addresses for Field Headquarters staff will remain the same. The street and mailing address is 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

MassWildlife announces the sale of Surplus Antlerless Deer Permits by Wildlife Management Zone. Once on sale, permits will remain available until sold out in each Wildlife Management Zone. Permit sales will be staggered over the following dates in October:

-Zone 11 October 7th at 8 A.M.

-Zone 10 October 8th at 8 A.M.

-Zones 13 and 14 October 9th at 8 A.M.

MA Forest Zoologist Jacob Kubel reported on an interesting study surveying Leopard Frogs in the state. The project is part of a nine state collaboration stretching from VA north to MA. The study hopes to identify the range of a newly discovered species of the frog (2012 in NJ). Calling surveys this spring we unable to locate any individuals in MA. So far the frog has been found in NJ, NY, and CT. DNA analysis conducted as part of the project will not only help identify the range of the new species, but will provide information on the Northern Leopard frog in MA.

Todd Olanyk, MA Representative to the Executive Committee

New Hampshire

Wood frog tadpoles with red, swollen legs were found in Bradford this past spring and sent to the University of New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing. Results came back positive for ranavirus. Previous cases were documented in New Hampshire in pickerel frogs in 1999 and bullfrogs in 2000. NH Fish and Game is advising people to clean personal clothing and equipment between visits to different waterbodies to prevent unintentionally spreading the virus which can be deadly to many cold blooded species such as frogs, fish, and turtles. In addition to red, swollen legs, other symptoms can include sores on the body, weakness, swollen eyelids (on turtles) or swimming erratically. N.H. Fish and Game asks anyone who observes ten or more dead or dying frogs or salamanders, or two

or more recently deceased turtles or snakes, to report them by email to wildlife@wildlife.nh.gov or by phone to 603-271-2461.



An Eastern box turtle was reportedly found by a hiker in Hudson this summer. NH Fish and Game biologists were able to locate and capture the turtle and Dr. James Paine, a veterinarian at Russell Animal Hospital in Concord, was able to confirm with a radiograph that it was a female with five eggs. NH Fish and Game biologists attached a transmitter to her shell and released her back in the area where she had been found. Eastern box turtles are a species of special concern in New Hampshire. Individuals have been confirmed in fewer than ten towns since 1989, including one in New Ipswich that also currently has an active transmitter. It has survived through two winters now and continues to be monitored.



Since 1999, bird enthusiasts have observed a single sandhill crane among the marshes of Monroe. Then finally, after 15 years, the solitary crane was seen with another adult and one young this spring! About the size of a great blue heron, with long legs, long bills and a distinctive red crown patch, these birds most commonly breed in Canada and northern parts of the U.S., from the

Great Lakes to further west. Small numbers have been observed for several years breeding in Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York, so it was exciting to see the first pair and their young here in New Hampshire. Female sandhill cranes typically lay only two eggs, and usually just one chick survives; that explains why only one young was seen with the pair. Pairs typically mate for life, which means there is a promising outlook for future young sandhill cranes being born here in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Audubon confirmed a total of 41 territorial pairs of bald eagles in NH in 2014. Of those, NH Audubon staff and volunteer eagle observers documented incubation by 27 (66%) pairs and all but 3 pairs were successful in fledging at least one young including the first successful nesting on the Merrimack River north of Concord. In all, the 24 successful nesting pairs fledged a total of 41 young, a new record high.

The University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension recently announced the new Stewardship Network of New England whose mission is to connect, equip and mobilize people and organizations to care for and study the lands and waters in their communities. The Stewardship Network: New England initiative is funded by the U.S Forest Service and the National Science Foundation through the New Hampshire and Maine EPSCoR Program's New England Sustainability Consortium. Other support comes from UNH Cooperative Extension and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

The goals of the New England Stewardship Network include:

- Host an online hub to share stewardship volunteer events and trainings with a wide audience
- Offer training statewide, with top priority to trails, invasives, and land management
- Expand access to online technology (webcasts, etc.)
- Pilot a regional effort in Southeast New Hampshire, our first "Stewardship Hub"
- Secure tools & resources to be shared (workday equipment, trails crews, interns, etc.)
- Create opportunities to share expertise through informal and planned events
- Develop leadership through volunteers' involvement in the network
- Help with volunteer management
- Create connections through good communication among partners and volunteers

Visit them online at:

<http://newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org/about-us>

On-the-ground operations were recently completed on 140 of this 630-acre state forest. A shelterwood harvest combined with a few small clearcuts were used to enhance understory food and cover and to create young forest habitat. Some blight-resistant American chestnut, developed by the American Chestnut Foundation, are planned to be planted in the clearcut areas – the first chestnut restoration site in NH. This project was planned and supervised by Bryan Comeau from the NH Division of Forests and Lands. Chestnut was one of the most common hardwood trees in New England and provided tremendous wildlife food and cover until blight nearly wiped it out. The American Chestnut Foundation has been working for many years to create a blight resistant strain that contains 95% American chestnut and 5% blight resistant Chinese chestnut.

Allison Keating, NH Representative to the Executive Committee

Vermont

No report submitted.

Rhode Island

No report submitted.

NORTHEAST SECTION UPDATE

The Northeast Section of TWS hosts an annual field techniques course at the Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton, Vermont. The course is open to undergraduate and graduate college students, and the New England Chapter of TWS covers the costs of the course for one student through a scholarship program. For more information on the TWS Northeast Section's field techniques course, please contact John McDonald, TWS Northeast Section Representative; twsjcdonald@gmail.com. This year, Deborah Jon Toupouzis was the recipient of the Chapter's scholarship. She is a senior at Framingham State University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a concentration in Wildlife and Environmental Management. She is currently the President of the Framingham State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Deborah submitted an article to share her experience at the TWS field course with the Chapter:

"The Wildlife Society's Field Course was an incredible opportunity to meet professionals, learn, practice and develop skills and techniques used in the field, and make some lifelong friends.

From the moment we arrived at the Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton Vermont overlooking the Green Mountains and the beautiful lake Bomoseen, we were encapsulated in the natural world. It was unlike any course I've ever taken and it exceeded my expectations. Bill Healy and John McDonald did an exemplary job acting as teachers, guides, and counselors during our two week stay. Some of the highlights of the course were climbing Bird Mountain, learning small mammal trapping and tagging techniques, conducting bird surveys before breakfast, and getting to practice shooting techniques with shotguns. Personally I felt that one of the greatest and most beneficial aspects of the course was being able to share meals and stories with professionals working in the field, doing what we as students hope to do when we graduate. To learn how they journeyed from college graduates to their, in many cases lifelong, careers as wildlife professionals was motivating and educational. I would highly recommend this course to any student hoping to work in this field even if their college offers several field work related classes. The TWS field course not only immerses you in your work but it also offers you a glimpse into working with a team of peers while also benefiting from the knowledge and experience of elders. One other aspect of the course that I found gratifying was the number of different perspectives brought by the students that I met. I am always overwhelmed in a way to meet other "wildlifers". Coming from a small school in the epicenter of an urban city, wildlife biology, environmental science, zoology, they're all thrown in together to make a very small niche of people. But in Vermont there were students from Pennsylvania to Maryland to New York, all with different backgrounds and personal values. There were those that grew up hunting and fishing and building fires to those of us that were excited to hear more than urban house sparrows outside our window in the morning. We were a diverse group of peers all with the same goal: to learn and protect the environment, animals, and world that we love. One thing that I took away from the course more than anything else was a renewed love for the natural world and new respect for those that work to utilize and conserve it."



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CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society has many items available for purchase displaying our logo!
To view merchandise available for sale, follow the link on The Chapter's webpage:
<http://www.wildlife.org/newengland/home>. Items will be available for purchase at the Fall Workshop.

The Wildlife Sampler is a biannual newsletter of the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society that provides up-to-date information on both state (CT, MA, NH, RI, VT) and regional wildlife management programs and conservation issues. The success of this newsletter depends on **your** contributions. Suggestions regarding the content and format of the newsletter are always welcome, as are contributions of news articles, job announcements and meeting notices. Letters and commentaries offered for publication also will be considered. Contributions from student members and members employed by consulting firms, educational institutions, or other environmental organizations are encouraged. Newsletter items should be forwarded to your state representative at least a week in advance of the established deadline dates, **September 1 and March 1**. Please email documents as attachments in Microsoft Word format. See email addresses above. State representatives must submit newsletter items to the Editor by the deadline to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter.

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation. For more information about The Wildlife Society, visit: <http://wildlife.org/> and the Chapter: <http://www.wildlife.org/newengland/home>

New England Chapter TWS logo created by Paul Rego, CT DEP Wildlife Division



SAVE THE DATE!

**New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Fall Workshop
Great Falls Discovery Center
2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2014
9:30 am – 2:00 pm**

Management of Declining Habitats in New England

Agenda

- 9:30 – 10:00 am Refreshments and Registration
- 10:00 – 12:00 am Welcoming and Presentations*
- 12:00 – 12:45 pm Lunch
- 12:45 – 2:00 pm Afternoon Site Visit

The Wildlife Society Continuing Education – 3.0 Credits

Registration will occur at the door:

Members (Regular & Student) – Free

Student Nonmembers - \$5.00, which includes membership in the chapter

Regular Nonmembers - \$10.00, which includes membership in the chapter

*Presentation details will be included in the finalized agenda.

Please email the Program Chair, David Cowell for questions: dcowell@bscgroup.com.