



THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER

Newsletter of The New England Chapter
Of The Wildlife Society
Fall 2013

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, **'Remote Wildlife Monitoring' on Thursday, October 24, 2013, 10:00 am- 2:00pm** at the DCR's Holyoke Range Notch Visitor's Center, 1500 West Street, Amherst, MA. Please see the President's message and attached agenda for additional details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Chapter Members,
Fall has arrived and we are gearing up for another great year of chapter workshops and professional development. The objectives of the chapter are to: provide a forum for the interchange and discussion of information and issues pertinent to wildlife management and environmental concerns; disseminate information pertinent to wildlife management in New England; identify and provide professional expertise for legislation, projects, suits and other issues which may have an impact on wildlife; and to promote professionalism among chapter members.

On October 24, 2013, we have another great opportunity to meet these objectives and promote the organization to our colleagues. On the 24th, we will be sponsoring a workshop entitled "Remote Wildlife Monitoring". This workshop will bring together biologists from the private, government, and academic sectors to discuss recent advances and local examples of remote monitoring in New England. It will be an event that you will not want to miss and be a great opportunity for networking! I challenge all of you to bring a colleague to the workshop. Let's continue to grow the chapter and build a stronger network of professionals throughout the region.

We are always looking for your help, if you would like to volunteer on a committee, plan an event, or simply suggest a topic or presenter for a

workshop, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to see you at the fall workshop!

Sincerely,
David Paulson



*David Paulson, President
New England Chapter of TWS*

STATE REPORTS

Connecticut

Tracy Rittenhouse, CT Representative to the Executive Committee

No report submitted.

Massachusetts

Migratory Bird Game Seasons Set

Migratory game bird seasons, bag limits, and methods of take for the 2013-14 seasons are posted on the MassWildlife website. The early statewide goose season began Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Hard copies of the migratory game bird regulations will be available at license vendor locations and MassWildlife offices in late September. All migratory game bird hunters are reminded they must complete an online Harvest

Information Program (HIP) survey for Massachusetts each calendar year.

Surplus Antlerless Deer Permit Sale Changes

Over the past year, the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has worked with its licensing vendor, Active Outdoors, to address the problems experienced in 2012 by hunters purchasing surplus Antlerless Deer Permits. Many system improvements have been put in place; this year, to reduce user volume, sale of Surplus Antlerless Deer Permits by Wildlife Management Zone will be staggered over the following days beginning in early October:

- Zone 11 permits will go on sale on Tuesday, October 1st at 8AM
- Zone 10 permits will go on sale on Wednesday, October 2nd at 8AM
- Zone 13 and 14 permits will go on sale on Thursday, October 3rd at 8AM

Once on sale, permits will remain available until sold out in each Wildlife Management Zone. Hunters are reminded that they can only purchase permits through www.mass.gov/massfishhunt online, at a license vendor location, or at a DFW office.

Save the Date for Wildlife Habitat Site Walks

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) will be conducting wildlife habitat management site walks on the following state wildlife lands for anyone interested. These walks are open to the public and are designed to provide an opportunity for attendees to learn how habitat management benefits different kinds of wildlife in special need of conservation. Conducted by DFW biologists and foresters, these walks will cover planned habitat management activities on the agency's wildlife lands. Attendees may have a chance to encounter some of the wildlife benefiting from these activities while learning about the enhanced recreational opportunities that result from this work. DFW encourages landowners interested in managing their own properties for wildlife to take advantage of this opportunity to find out more about wildlife habitat management. Dress for the weather; plan on all events occurring rain or shine. Consider bringing binoculars, camera, and wearing sturdy boots. For cooler weather, dress warmly! More details about meeting times and locations will be posted later in September in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation area of the DFW website.

- September 24 – West Stockbridge, Maple Hill WMA
- October 3 – Hardwick, Muddy Brook WMA (Patrill Hollow)

- October 10 – Southwick, Southwick WMA

NETWS Executive Board Members Continue Outreach Efforts

As we all know, garnering public interest, understanding, and support is critical when it comes to managing wildlife. At times it may seem that we are managing people more often than wildlife.

MDFW Wildlife Biologists and TWS members, Trina Moruzzi and Laura Conlee, routinely engage the public in informational presentations. In September, Trina gave a talk titled "A Tale of Two Weasels" about river otters and fisher. The presentation was sponsored by the Friends of Upton State Forest. Laura presented information on beavers to a group at the Westhampton Public Library. There has been heightened public interest in beaver ecology and conflicts since state legislation made changes impacting their management in the mid-90's. It is important that TWS members continue to educate the public so they may become informed advocates in promoting the work of the wildlife profession.

Peruvian Delegation Visit

A delegation of 15 government officials from Peru visited the U.S. during the week of September 15th. The delegates were here on a study tour to learn first-hand how our structure of wildlife management and policy works. The tour was a joint mission of the USFWS and the NFS. There is currently no governmental structure in Peru specifically for regulating wildlife. This group is operating under the auspices of their Department of Agriculture to study this problem, and try to establish wildlife policy in Peru. John Organ has been working with the group for the past few years and this was their first opportunity to visit the U.S.



John Organ, USFWS, and four of fifteen Peruvian delegates visiting the U.S.

One of the things the group requested on their visit was the opportunity to meet with American hunters. On the evening of September 17th the delegates met with a group of hunters at the

Ashfield Rod & Gun Club in Plainfield, MA. About forty people enjoyed lively conversation over a dinner of game meat. During the evening, the hunters and delegates shared conversations about the hunting culture and its evolution in the U.S. and how hunting plays an inextricable role in wildlife management. We learned although some subsistence hunting occurs in certain areas, there is currently no comparable culture in Peru.



The group reviews photos of potential game species in Peru.

Todd Olanyk, MA Representative to the Executive Committee

New Hampshire

2013 Marks the 25th Anniversary for New Hampshire's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program

In the mid-1980s, amid enormous pressure from development, a crisis was emerging for New Hampshire's wildlife and habitats. People throughout the state joined together in a common call to "do something!" and the New Hampshire Legislature passed the Nongame Species Management Act in 1988 and formally established the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program at NH Fish and Game. The past 25 years have seen many successes; nesting bald eagles are at record highs and now occur throughout the state; ospreys rebounded and were removed from the state's threatened and endangered wildlife list in 2008; more than 2,200 pairs of terns breed at the historic Isles of Shoals colony once again, and over 100 endangered piping plover chicks have successfully fledged from nests on New Hampshire's beaches. While there is much reason to celebrate there is even more work to be done to continue protecting nongame wildlife into the future. We know that some species will always be at risk and the need to list threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire will never disappear. We know that some species will

always need monitoring and protection and some habitats will always need management. The NH Wildlife Action Plan identifies 123 species and 27 habitats in greatest need of conservation but individual recovery plans still need to be developed for most. This is a necessary focus if we are to have measurable success and add to the milestones gained in the past 25 years. But, we also know that with time, and dedicated resources, habitats like the pine barrens can be restored and managed, and species like bald eagles and terns, can be brought back from the brink of extinction. We will need to adapt to future changes by monitoring, managing and protecting the populations most vulnerable, today and in the years to come.

Below are some highlights from the NH Nongame Program's 2013 summer field season:

- Four female and one male New England cottontails were equipped with radio transmitter collars and released in Dover, NH and continue to be monitored. They represent the first group born in captivity at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI and released in NH as part of the range-wide New England cottontail restoration effort.
- Approximately 2,620 pairs of common terns, 59 pairs of roseate terns, and 2 pairs of Arctic terns nested at the Isles of Shoals this year. These totals are up slightly for common terns but down slightly for both roseate and Arctic terns compared to last year but they are all still within the average of the past 5 years. American kestrel, Atlantic puffin, black tern, great cormorant, and peregrine falcon were all recorded stopping over on the islands this year as well.
- Seven pairs of piping plovers returned and nested on NH beaches and successfully fledged 12 chicks. The seven pairs matched a record high from 2003 and the 12 chicks was the highest fledging number for NH in more than a decade.
- Surveys for state endangered Blanding's turtles continued this year with an expanded focus to include some edge-of-range sites and more developed sites and also more random locations. Traps were set and monitored nearly every week over the summer and Blanding's turtles were found in all types of survey sites. Most adult turtles caught had over 20 annuli; blood samples were collected as part of region-wide genetic research efforts.



Blanding's turtle sampled in NH, summer, 2013.

New Research on Moose Productivity and Mortality

NH Fish and Game and the University of NH have entered into a cooperative project agreement to conduct new research on the productivity and mortality of moose in northern New Hampshire. This research will entail capturing and radio-collaring moose during December 2013 and December 2014 using a combination of conventional VHF radio collars and GPS radio collars. The primary objective of the project is to measure productivity and the causes and rate of mortality in NH's moose population. Results from this project will provide essential information for achieving moose population objectives identified in the state's Big Game Management Plan.

New Hampshire Welcomes New Biologist

The Wildlife Division welcomes Dan Bergeron who joined the staff in May as the new Deer Project Leader. Dan earned his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of NH in 2011 where his research focused on relationships between moose, winter ticks and forest regeneration in northern NH. Dan worked with USDA Wildlife Services before joining the department. One of Dan's immediate tasks is overseeing a new research initiative in cooperation with the University of NH focusing on mapping and identifying known and potential deer wintering habitat in the state using the departments GIS capabilities.

Annual Goose Banding Efforts Completed

The heat and constant rain made this summer one of the more challenging for goose banding. But the goose crew, led by biologist Ed Robinson, still successfully completed captures at 23 sites across the state and rounded-up a total of 690 geese, (531 new birds, 145 previously banded birds, and 14 that were not banded). The flocks

were in smaller groups this summer but the brood size was close to average at 5.0 goslings/brood.

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, Tom Groves was the recipient of the Chapter's field course scholarship. Tom has submitted an article to share what he learned with the chapter.

When I was younger, Boy Scout summer camp was always a time of adventure, meeting new people, and exploring the woods. Usually an experience reserved for youth, I had thought my days as a camper were over. Then the opportunity to attend the Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society Field Techniques course at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton, VT appeared, and it seemed that I would once again have the opportunity to experience a grown up version of the summer camp I once knew.

Prior to arriving, I prepared with course readings on topics that would be covered over my two week stay. I read about small mammal trapping techniques, bird sampling procedures and descriptions of the different types of habitats we would encounter in the Taconic Mountains. I could tell right then that this was going to be an amazing experience.

During the two weeks at Kehoe Conservation Camp, we were visited by over twenty professionals from Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts and New York. The instructors' backgrounds varied from an environmental conservation consultant, Vermont Fish and Game

biologists, to the editor for the New York Wildlife Conservation magazine, *The Conservationist*. Often, the professionals would stay for the day or more, sleeping in the cabins and joining us for meals. They were all available for questions and conversations and that opportunity was priceless. In addition to career advice, the skills they taught would all culminate into techniques we would use to survey 1,000 meter transects in Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area, to determine a hypothetical management plan for the area.

Our first day began with an introduction from our instructors Dr. Bill Healy, Dr. John McDonald and Mark Scott. We began by learning how to maintain a field notebook, followed by basic compass and mapping skills (a refresher I was grateful for), as well as navigating with a handheld GPS unit. Two days were spent gaining instruction on bird point count protocols and birding by ear. In order to hear as many birds as possible, we arrived at our surveying points by 5am to greet the dawn chorus and hone our listening skills. After breakfast, we learned how to set up mist nets and in the two days we caught and banded a black-capped chickadee and a Baltimore oriole, and continued birding even after they left camp. We finished the program with a species list of 90 birds.

Small mammal sampling was taught by Bill Healy. He taught the group how to trap small mammals, tag specimens, record data, and release them to gauge diversity of the small rodent population.

We learned some skills that weren't directly used in the field, but are important to understand all types of wildlife management. Examples included how to trap fisher, snare bear, and dart moose. Although we didn't shoot or trap any live animals, the process was conveyed effectively. All of the students went through the Vermont Hunter's education course complete with proper gun safety techniques, proper hunter ethics and a 20 gauge skeet shooting session before and after dinner.

Another skill that I and many other students wouldn't have had the opportunity to practice was radio telemetry. Telemetry equipment was provided and the groups were tasked with using that equipment to find radio collars on the side of Bird Mountain. The collars were set in locations based on the representative hypothetical species—in a tree for a raccoon, under a root ball for a bear and in a sunny rocky field for a snake. We also had an opportunity to learn electroshock sampling in a feeder stream to Lake Bomoseen with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

The skills we learned prior to surveying our own transects were bird, herpetology, small mammal and vegetative sampling. There were five transect groups all with their own compass bearing, and as a group we were required to set between six and

eight points, 100 meters apart. These points would later be used as sampling plots for our newly acquired skills.

The last few days were spent performing the skills taught to us by the experts in the field to determine any inferences we could about Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The five plots varied from each other in terms of terrain, slope, bird species, mammals and amphibians as well as the habitat's age. After gathering our data we set out on analyzing it and giving a presentation on our findings at the end of the course.

Spending two weeks at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton, VT at The Wildlife Society's Field Techniques Course taught and kindled my interest in Wildlife Biology more than an entire year's worth of class work. I and the other students who attended couldn't have been happier to be there. We laughed, learned and connected with so many different types of people all of whom shared the common interest of conservation, wildlife and education. It's always bittersweet when camp comes to an end, but now I can hope to visit next year and share what I've learned with the new group of campers, and re-live summer camp all over again.

Special thanks to everyone who donated their time to come to Kehoe Conservation Camp.

Tom is a native of Massachusetts and graduate from the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a degree in English Writing, returned to school in 2011 at Framingham State University and is working towards a degree in Wildlife Biology. Summer 2013 he spent as the Mary Lee Everett Conservation Fellow with New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, MA working to preserve threatened and endangered species throughout New England. Tom's interests include botany, hiking, biking, music and being outdoors. After graduation he hopes to obtain a job working as a botanist for a state agency, or for a land conservancy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

**New England Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Executive Board Meeting
July 22, 2013**

10:00am – 11:30am

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Field Headquarters
100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230
West Boylston, MA 01583**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

David Cowell, Program Committee Chair
Allison Keating, NH State Representative
Ken MacKenzie, Webmaster
John McDonald, Northeast Section Rep.
Trina Moruzzi, Past President
Todd Olanyk, MA State Representative
Laura Conlee, Vice President
Tracy Rittenhouse, CT State Representative

Fall Workshop:

The following list of topics was discussed. The Program Chair will circulate the list to the membership to solicit feedback and possible other topics for consideration. A final request "vote" will be made and a topic selected by late August.

Topics: avian banding, telemetry and wildlife monitoring (GPS, Radar, Acoustics workshop (Birds, Bats, Mammals, Reptiles), fisheries management, aging and biological monitoring/identification of wildlife, captive breeding, habitat management, climate change, disease sampling

Locations: USFWS (Hadley), Bass Pro Shops (Foxborough), Parker River NWR or Joppa Flats (Newburyport), Manomet, Notch Visitor Center (Amherst), Roger Williams Zoo (Providence).

Time Frame: October 17-25, 2013

Information and Education:

-Google Group: The chapter is moving to a group instead of a list serve. Prior to the conversion, members will be notified of the change and then they will be automatically enrolled. Laura Conlee is taking the lead on the project. The Executive Board voted to do an automatic enrollment vs. an invitation. No one opposed.

-Thanks to Ken, the Chapter website is in the new TWS required format. Big Thanks!

-Facebook Page has over 200 "likes" and the news alert feature is popular.

-Newsletter: a newsletter will be released by the end of October. This addition will include the report from the techniques weekend and state reports. Michelle may be contacting you to write an article.

State Updates:

RI: Paul was unable to attend. His role is changing with DEM and he may no longer be the representative for RI. Stay tuned...

MA: Todd is looking forward to his new role. He hopes to reach out to the MA membership and get them excited about the Chapter. Specifically, he is hoping to reach out to universities, NGOs, and private industry.

NH: Allison is also looking forward to her new role. There is a new deer biologist in NH (Dan Bergeron).

Dan conducted his master's thesis on winter ticks and moose. The non-game program is currently conducting spotted and Blanding's turtle surveys and has identified a 2nd eastern box turtle location in the state.

CT: Tracy: UCONN hosted the 2013 student conclave, beginning a black bear population study with 150 hair snares located in the NW corner of the state. In addition, they are reviewing their commercial snapping turtle permits as well as crossbow regulations.

VT: In process of getting in contact with the new representative for VT. Stay tuned.

Northeast Section:

19 students attended the Field Techniques Course (from 8 schools). They are seeing an increase in the number of graduate students attending. They raised the required deposit to curb students dropping out at the last minute. Seems to be working... Tom Groves, the student we awarded a scholarship to has written a great article for the newsletter.

National Update:

-New Membership Portal on the website. "One stop shopping for membership information and publications".

-If you use the link to Amazon.com on the TWS website to purchase goods, the TWS receives a kick-back from Amazon. Essentially, free fundraising. This does not impact the price of the item you are buying.

-New Executive Director. He is working on ways to improve accounting and fiscal management. More to come...

-Upcoming Conferences

20th Annual Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 5-10, 2013

21st Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 25-30, 2014

-If you have any articles that you would like to contribute to the national TWS e-newsletter or Wildlife Professional, please contact: Lisa Moore, editor@wildlife.org

-Conservation Affairs: nationally, the society is working to connect all of the local chapters together through a network of conservation affairs chairmen. More information to come....



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CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society has many items available for purchase displaying our logo!

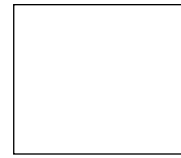
To view merchandise available for sale, follow the link on The Chapter's webpage:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland/>. 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.

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

New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society
c/o Michelle Cozine
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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://joomla.wildlife.org/>, and the Chapter: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland/>