President’s Column

Ryan Monello, President

It’s a busy time of year for both the chapter and its members. Here are the latest chapter announcements!

Mark your calendars for the CO Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting, which will be from February 5-7, 2014 in Fort Collins, CO this year. We have started planning in earnest and it is going to be a great meeting. As usual, we will have at least two workshops to choose from on Wednesday February 5, one of which will be an advanced wildlife anesthesia workshop to be led by a variety of prominent wildlife veterinarians. On Thursday, our morning plenary session will focus on connectivity and migration of wildlife species in and beyond Colorado, and our afternoon plenary will showcase the recent research and interagency/private collaborative energy development and conservation efforts that are occurring in the Piceance Basin in NW Colorado. And on Friday, we hope to continue on the heels of last years success and again attract a large number of talks from researchers and students throughout the state. Details on all our workshops and scheduled plenary speakers will be available in our next newsletter.

Call for Board Members! We have a fantastic board, many of whom are returning next year. But we will have some critical open positions, including President-elect, that we have to fill in 2014. Please consider volunteering for these very rewarding positions, with one of the most successful (and time efficient!) state chapters in the country. No prior experience is needed and it is a great way to meet and work with a lot of dedicated wildlife professionals in Colorado and The Wildlife Society. We need candidates by mid-November. Please contact me at Ryan_Monello@nps.gov for more information or to run for a position on the board.

A big thank you to Nathan Schmitz, who recently had to retire his position on the board because he is moving positions and leaving the state. Nate has done an incredible job the last couple of years and his enthusiasm and dedication will be missed. We are also very thankful to Mike Smith, who has agreed to step into Nate’s position for the remainder of the year.

Finally, please take the time to read the enclosed research piece in this newsletter by Hayley Dieckmann from Colorado College. I think it is great to get the word out on projects such as this and we welcome future submissions if anyone would like to tell us about their research.

Enjoy the Fall!

Ryan Monello
President
Teleconference

Note: red text indicates further work pending, green text indicates board decisions

In attendance: Ryan Monello, Mindy Rice, Chris Mettenbrink, Stephanie Steinhoff, Colleen Cunningham, Evan Phillips, Cary Aloia, Christina Santana

Meeting Called to Order by Ryan Monello at 9:09 AM

Secretary’s Report (Christina):
Tax issue has been resolved (Ryan).
Minutes had been previously reviewed and approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report (Colleen):
Account balances:
$5,482.88 in checking account, after $564.01 IRS check cleared
$41,531.80 in saving account

Deposit second quarterly dues of $310.00

Previous accountant reimbursed us $550.00 for his mistake.

Check for $564.01 distributed to the IRS. We are in the clear with the IRS now. We have a new accountant in place.

Old Business (Ryan):
Next conference call
- Ryan will send out an email regarding scheduling the next two conference calls. The calls will likely be held at the end of October or beginning of November and in December.

- Ryan will be completely out of touch from September 14th through September 30th.

Positions
- Ryan needs to know if members are planning to return to their positions. Members not planning to return need to attempt to find a replacement. Elections will be held in the November/December newsletter.

Continued >>>>
New business (Ryan)

Newsletter
- Deadline for items for the next newsletter is September 13th.
- Will include board minutes, President’s column, meeting dates will be announced, board member positions and election announcements.
- Ryan reviewed a research article written by a student from Colorado College. The topic of the article is Predatory Squirrels in the Forests of Colorado. The article does not seem controversial and will be included in the next newsletter.
- We will likely indicate a “call” or “save the date” for Friday presentations in this newsletter.
- Please copy Greg on any newsletter related correspondence.

Position replacements
- Mike Smith expressed interest in assuming the vacated SE Representative at large position (Nate’s position).
- Per chapter by-laws, Ryan initiated a vote to fill the SE Representative position with Mike Smith. All attending members voted “yay”. No one opposed.
- Mike Smith is the new SE Representative at large for the CCTWS.

Request to help with registration for June 2014 Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meeting
- CCTWS decided on a $5.00 reimbursement per registration. This will raise a small amount of funds for CCTWS and allow us to buy a gift card for those members who spend the time helping with registration for the meeting.

Annual meeting
Location options and prices
- Annual meeting dates have been set for February 5th-7th.

Workshops
- Current Workshop status
  - Ryan suggested that we proceed with the anesthesia workshop. Lisa Wolfe and Mike Miller from CPW could give demonstrations at the CPW pens.
  - Anesthesia workshop will likely be relatively low cost to CCTWS.
  - Stacy pursued the Human Dimensions workshop

Continued >>>>
• The cost to have Mike and Tara present was $2,000. We discussed paying $1,000 for a 6 hour workshop. Our concern is the cost as it relates to our overall budget for the meeting.
  ♦ Cary suggested that the Migration Corridor topic or Landscape Genetics might be a better fit.
  ♦ Stephanie stated that we need to consider attendance costs given the current budget constraints most professionals are facing.
  ♦ Ryan mentioned that he spoke with Sara Oyler-McCance about presenting on Landscape Genetics. She could possibly give an overview of the basics. Mindy and Chris agreed that that would be a good idea.
  o Aim for the highest quality workshops that will attract the most attendees
  o $2,000 budgeted for workshops (Ryan)
  o The group members each prioritized the potential topics. The overall consensus is that the priority for topics would be 1) Anesthesia Workshop, 2) Landscape Genetics, 3) Open Source GIS Workshop, 4) Human Dimensions.
    ✦ We will give Brad and Stacy the opportunity to weigh in before finalizing this list.

Plenary Session
  o Ken Wilson offered to handle the afternoon session.
    ✦ Discussions on the how oil and gas development has impacted wildlife in the Piceance Basin.
  o Evan, Stephanie, and Ryan are working to develop a plan of action for the morning session.
    ✦ There was discussion as to if our keynote speaker needed to be from within the state. No one felt that the keynote had to be Colorado specific.
  o Ryan stated that his travel to the TWS meeting will be covered and suggested reallocating travel funds to annual conference and membership.
    ✦ Mindy made a motion to reallocate a portion of the CCTWS president travel budget ($2,000). She motioned that $1,000 be set aside for expenses for a speaker at our CCTWS meeting. $500 would be dedicated to an additional travel grant and $500 would remain to cover Ryan’s cost to the National meeting or the annual conference pending need. Chris seconded. No one opposed.
Focus/theme of meeting

- Connectivity and migration, as previously discussed and decided on (Ryan)
  - Need to have a title determined by the next newsletter. Submit suggestions to Ryan and he will make the final decision.

Auction Materials

- Cary has agreed to obtain the auction materials.
- Ryan wrote to Nate requesting that the auction information be sent to Cary.

Round table

- Christina-Pass
- Mindy-Pass
- Chris-Pass
- Evan-Pass
- Colleen-Pass
- Stephanie-Pass
- Cary-Pass
- Ryan- He will be giving a presentation to Western State Colorado University on 9/13/13 at 3pm.

Adjourn: 9:43am
SAVE THE DATE!

February 5-7 in Fort Collins, CO

Colorado Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 5:
Workshops

Thur. Morning Plenary:
“Crawling, Running, Flying ...
Wildlife Migration and
Movement in Colorado”

Thur. Afternoon Plenary:
Wildlife research & energy
development in the Piceance Basin

Friday Morning: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS

To submit a talk, please send a title and abstract to:
evans.phillips@state.co.us
Colorado TWS members and your organizations can influence and participate in the


Help us to focus on actions, celebrations, and improvements for management of animals, land, and people on private and communal lands that represent 2/3rds of Colorado and the US. Join us in spirit and in participation to present the most thoughtful and effective outcomes of record.

Previous Congresses were held in Africa 3 times, Canada twice, France, and the first in New Mexico. Our Congress emphasizes practical knowledge, skills and attitudes with action outcomes to assist private and communal sectors internationally, in North America, and in Colorado before, during and after the event. Sessions and workshops are planned with invited speakers of quality and substance, related papers from around the world, and field trips to Blue Valley Ranch and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Over 40 topics are being considered including titles such as:

- Collaborations across landscapes, borders, and jurisdictions
- Integrating agriculture and livestock into nature conservation
- Conservation legislation and policy to encourage wildlife management, nature conservation, endangered species protection, tourism, and other human and landscape needs
- Energy uses, development ,and mitigations that promote wildlife and livelihoods
- Organizing, administering, and using Land Trusts or other payments for environmental services
- Urban and X-Urban communal land planning, development, and mitigations
- Ethics of hunting and management under different systems
- Role of NGOs to promote, and to evaluate conservation interests locally and internationally
- The role of universities and professionals to educate and nurture future leaders and managers about working with private and communal sectors
- Protecting against diseases and conflicts between humans and wildlife
- Forming and managing local, state/provincial, national, and international Wildlife Associations
- Helping persons to want wildlife and nature as part of their spirit and livelihoods

Actions are our desired outcomes not mere studies of problems. Words to consider as we plan include: critical thinking, solutions, guidelines, Best Management Practices, innovations, results, applications, models, tools, impacts, future progress, management recommendations, provocative debates, mitigations, examples, outcomes, successes, case studies, actions, etc.

Colorado Chapter members can help to mold the Congress by being on the planning committee, organizing sessions, delivering papers, serving as onsite hosts, bringing your nature conservation organizations’ work on the topics to the venue, and attending along with your colleagues. Your organizations can sponsor events, speakers, and overall Congress quality. Tell us what you want and need out of the Congress! Help us to deliver!

A web site is in preparation and registration can begin before September 2013, but until then, learn about the venue, topics, cooperators, and issues that are updated in LandHelp, www.LandHelp.info under the Congress Section.
When you first tell someone that you are studying the predatory interaction between the North American Red Squirrel (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus) and the Flammulated Owl (Otus flammeolus), most envision the sharp talons of an owl snatching a furry unprotected squirrel from the branches of tall pine tree, and most of the time they would be right. However, this study represents one of the rare occasions when these people are wrong. Flammulated Owls typically do not grow beyond six inches tall with a 14-inch wingspan, rendering them incapable of predating adult Red Squirrels. In this case, the predatory relationship that we are researching is the predation of owl eggs and nestlings by the squirrel. The predatory role of the Red Squirrel has challenged the classic conception of rodents as solely a prey species.

This study, located in the Manitou Experimental Forest (MEF) in Colorado, focuses on understanding the selective pressures exhibited by Red Squirrels in a dry mixed conifer forest. The Red Squirrel is a territorial species that feeds primarily on the seeds of coniferous trees. But, they are also recognized nest predators of many songbird species. In the MEF, the Red Squirrel has been observed predating nests of the Flammulated Owl, this is the only example of a squirrel species predating the nests of a raptor. Flammulated Owls are insectivores that rely heavily on Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) mixed stands for foraging. This puts them into close proximity with Red Squirrels, which use Douglas-fir and Ponderosa pine as food sources and nest sites. For the past 33 years, Dr. Brian Linkhart (Colorado College) has been conducting an ongoing study examining the life history of the owls in the MEF. However, little to no work has been done on the Red Squirrel population in this area.

Red Squirrel in handling cone. Researchers determining correct positioning for PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tag injection. PIT tags are used to identify individuals.

Continued…
Working in conjunction with Dr. Marc Snyder (Colorado College), this year we began mapping squirrel territories in the region in order to better understand their habitat use and foraging patterns. In addition to territory size, conifer reproduction is also being monitored in order to quantify food availability. Preliminary results show that squirrel territory size may be significantly lower in this area, ranging from 0.06 – 0.17 hectares, compared to other studied populations, where typical sizes varied from 0.25 – 1.99 hectares. Red Squirrels have demonstrated the ability to adjust their diets and home range size in accordance with food availability. Therefore, decreased territory size in this region could be indicative of high food availability or increased density of squirrels, when compared to populations from other studies.
Western State Colorado University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society Update

We are excited to be entering a new school year that holds lots of potential and opportunity. To kick start the semester, the Western State Colorado University Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society and our partner organization, Tri-Beta, hosted a joint Welcome Back BBQ to rally our current and potential members where we discussed upcoming events. The student chapter will host a seminar on September 13 featuring Ryan Monello, President of CCTWS, as part of the Western State Colorado University Natural and Environmental Sciences fall seminar series. After the seminar, Ryan will meet with students to discuss his research and Wildlife Society opportunities for students. On September 6-8 three of our members volunteered with the Colorado 14ers Initiative to help tackle some much needed trail work on Wetterhorn mountain. Along with four members of the 14ers Initiative we started off by digging 340 feet of tread, installing an open culvert with seven large supports and four steps on day one, followed by the instillation of 20 check dams and 56 plugs on over 270 feet of trail on day two. Some of our members are planning to attend the Guild of Rocky Mountain Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists (GREEBS) meeting at Pingree Park from 20-22 September and we are planning to send a group to the annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Heather Miller
President, WSCU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society
THE CSU WILDLIFE SOCIETY
STUDENT CHAPTER PRESENTS:

the

Wildlife Society
Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

Tickets

Students: $10
Non-Students: $15
Children under 10 are Free!

Tickets can be purchased from:
Wagar 107-8am-4:30pm
The TWS Coffee table-8am-11am
Or
RSVP to Meredith at animalearth0426@gmail.com
And Pay at the Door!

RSVP By October 16th!

Friday October 25th
4pm to 7pm
C.B. & Potts
Restaurant and Brewery

Plenty of fun to be had!
Including food, games, music, silent auction, and raffles!
A great opportunity for networking and making friends!
Board Member Opportunities:  
The CO Chapter needs your help!

Please consider volunteering for a board member position in 2014.

There are a variety of available positions for any level of experience and interest.

Contact Ryan.Monello@nps.gov by mid-November for more information.
Travel Grant Update

With the support of CWS travel grant funding, I attended the 2013 Biennial Meeting of the Western Bat Working Group, in Santa Fe, NM, this past April. This meeting was entirely focused on the revision of the WBWG species risk assessment, which was originally developed in Reno, Nevada, back in 1998. I was involved with the WBWG team that developed the first matrix, and as a matrix team member on this revision, I was the lead for the Southern Rockies LCC. I worked with other biologists from Colorado, including Jeremy Siemers, Dan Neubaum, Toni Piaggio, Rob Schorr, and Laura Ellison, to cross-walk the Colorado Bat Threat Matrix into the calculator for the Southern Rockies. The Colorado Bat Threat Matrix was revised by the Colorado Bat Working Group a few years back, and is available at the CBWG website. [http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/teams/zooology/cbwg/](http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/teams/zooology/cbwg/)

The meeting was very productive, and great progress was made on the west-wide revision of this important bat conservation tool. Several biologists from Colorado were able to attend, so good representation and input for our state was available. It was great to hear about the status of various conservation issues, learn more about the status and issues concerning bat species in other western states, and have the opportunity to talk with bat biologists from around the west. The following assessment of the meeting was provided by the WBWG president, Angie McIntire, of Arizona.

“We all worked hard in Santa Fe and for many months prior. As most of you know, the WBWG has been working on a Conservation Assessment for Western Bat Species over the last two years and Santa Fe was our opportunity to peer review and discuss the initial assessment. Once completed, the Conservation Assessment will provide states, provinces, federal land management agencies, and others with information on overall status of western bat species. The original Western Bat Species Matrix was developed at a workshop in Reno, Nevada in 1998. One goal in updating the Reno Species Matrix was to develop a framework to support consistent and systematic assessment of bat species vulnerability into the future. To do that, we opted to use a rigorous process and NatureServe’s rank calculator. We adopted the same threats scoring method developed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and used by NatureServe. Biologists across the west contributed information on threat impact, population size and range extent for bat species in their state. State and regional team leads compiled information by region and assimilated into nine Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs, ecologically-based conservation regions). The resulting assessment framework can be duplicated in other regions. I’m excited to think of how this framework will stand up over time and support efforts to update and refine species conservation status into the future. This was the first step toward prioritizing conservation actions for bats in the West and so many partners collaborated on this effort (western state and federal wildlife agencies, including Alaska and British Columbia, Natural Heritage Programs, NatureServe, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and USGS National Gap Analysis Program). I’m so proud of the way we all came together to work on this project and everyone’s attention and hard work in Santa Fe.”

“In addition to our work in break out groups on the threats assessment, one of my favorite parts of the meeting was the species range map update. It was gratifying to watch all the interaction and exchange as everyone gathered around species range maps to discuss and make changes. That was the type of information sharing that meeting organizers had envisioned would be one of the best parts of a working meeting.” – Angie McIntire
Thank you CCTWS for the travel grant I used towards my trip to Knoxville, TN where I attended the Annual Wildlife Disease Association Conference. I had not been to a WDA conference in several years so it was excellent to reconnect with colleagues from all over North and South America, and make new connections with researchers from Africa and Europe. The conference was well attended with nearly 300 participants, 4½ days of talks and two poster sessions. The second day of the conference was entirely devoted to the student presentation competition, which I was lucky enough to be selected for. The competition was stiff with excellent student research projects as diverse as dolphin lesions to developing a new vaccine for all lyssa viruses in bats. My talk, “Bioassay detection of chronic wasting disease prions in soil”, was really well received. Though I didn’t place in the competition, it resulted in some great questions and discussions after the session. I even generated a new collaboration as a result! While there I also talked with WDA board members who complimented the CSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association on the excellent quality of our events and organization. Finally, the modeling workshop hosted by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) was really interesting, introducing us to a couple modeling and visualization programs (Matlab and NetLogo) useful in disease modeling. It was a great trip and I really appreciate the financial assistance from the CCTWS.

**Colorado Riparian Team - Proper Functioning Condition Training**
August 20-21, Carbondale
Please contact Jay Thompson at (303) 239-3724 or jmthomps@blm.gov

**Educational Opportunities**

**River Management Symposium**
April 15-17 2014, Denver
[www.river-management.org](http://www.river-management.org)
On August 29, 2013, nearly 50 participants gathered in Morgan County, northeast Colorado, to learn how to improve management of seasonal wetlands for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. RMBO Stewardship biologist Colin Lee welcomed the group which was evenly comprised of private landowners and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff who were responsible for the management of seasonal shallow water impoundments that provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife along the Lower South Platte River in northeast Colorado. Many of the private landowners were already engaged in wetland protection or restoration activities through the NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Ducks Unlimited programs, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife program, and wanted to learn how to maximize the benefits of their privately-owned conservation areas through proper management. Morning indoor presentations by guest speakers covered South Platte waterfowl population trends and goals, waterfowl ecology, the benefits of intensive active management, techniques and tools for moist soil management, adjacent upland management, and water rights issues. Participants then visited Elliot State Wildlife Area and a privately-owned WRP conservation easement to see examples of on-the-ground management. Some of the most valuable discussion occurred during the field trip, including trouble-shooting tips exchanged among managers, the benefits of moist soil management to non-game species, and identification of target plant species.

Recorded video presentations and downloadable workshop materials are available through the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory website at:  http://rmbo.org/v3/OurWork/Stewardship/HabitatEnhancementProjects/WetlandRiparian/ManagementofSeasonalWetlands.aspx

Contact:
Colin Lee, RMBO/NRCS/CPW Private Lands Wildlife and Wetland Biologist
970-330-0380 x214, Colin.Lee@co.usda.gov
COLORADO WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:
Address
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________
Work Phone: __________________ Home Phone: __________________
E-Mail
Today’s Date: ___________________
Affiliation: ___________________
Interested in Committee Work? _________ Yes _________ No
Are You a TWS Certified Biologist? ________ Yes _________ No
Areas of Expertise/Interest: ____________________________________________________
Dues: 1 Year: $15  2 Years: $27  3 Years: $35  Student/Retirees: $10
MC/Visa: __________________________ Expiration Date: __________________________
Signature: ________________________

Print this Form and Mail to: Colleen Cunningham, 1550 Utica St., Denver, CO 80204
# DIRECTORY OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

## Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ryan Monello</td>
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<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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## Executive Board □ Regional

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE Rep.</td>
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## Executive Board □ At Large

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chris Mettenbrink</td>
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</tbody>
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## Wildlife Society Affiliates:

- **CSU Student Representative:**
  - Colin Wait: cwait@rams.colostate.edu
- **WSC Student Chapter President:**
  - Heather Miller: heather.miller@western.edu
- **CMPS:**
  - Bill Vodehnal: bill.vodehnal@nebraska.gov
- **The Wildlife Society:**
  - Gary White: gwhite@cnr.colostate.edu

## Committees

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Nominations &amp; Elections</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&amp; Christina Santana (Western)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Brett Walker &amp; Gary White</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brett.walker@state.co.us">brett.walker@state.co.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Meeting/Workshops</td>
<td>Ryan Monello &amp; Brad Milley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ryan_Monello@nps.gov">Ryan_Monello@nps.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Website:

- Brett Walker & Gary White: bamilley@usgs.gov