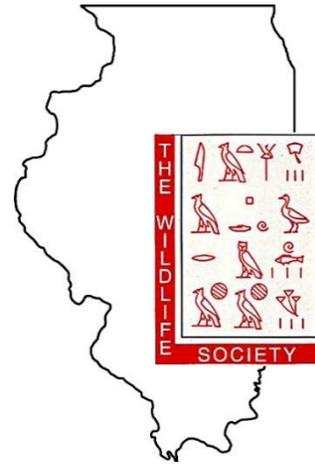


ICTWS Newsletter Winter 2018/2019

Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Excellence in Wildlife Conservation through Science and Education

Edited by Chris Jacques, President-Elect

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President's Corner

It is hard to believe how much has transpired in the world of politics and its influence on natural resource management since our last Chapter newsletter. For example, we have a new gubernatorial administration that will be seated in Illinois within days. We anxiously await the news of whom will be appointed as the new Director of the DNR, and what agency priorities they will institute for the next 4 years. Our President and US Congress find it difficult to agree on US priorities and as a result much of the Federal government has been shut down for nearly 3 weeks. This has left Federal lands and natural resources held in trust by the US government unmanaged because most employees working within the Departments of Interior and Agriculture have been furloughed. And who could forget the journey of Senate Bill 2493? We attempted to keep our members informed as the legislation moved through the lawmaking process. It started as a bill to eliminate the ban on feeding white-tailed deer, which was enacted after the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease. It then transformed into a bill directing the Prairie Research Institute and the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois to conduct a 5 year study on the health and social effects of supplemental feeding on the wild deer population in Illinois. The bill passed and was sent to the Governor for signature. After receiving a significant amount of input from stakeholders opposing the legislation, Governor Rauner vetoed the bill on September 25th! Governor Rauner explained his reasoning for vetoing the bill by stating that “this subject needs further discussion to better define the scope and aims of such a study. It should include more flexibility for experts to exercise their judgment and further involvement by the Department of Natural Resources. We should ensure that any research fully considers the health impacts on the Illinois deer population”. Thankfully, an attempt to override the veto on November 14th failed and the bill did not become law. However, few know what the political winds of the 101st General Assembly have in store for deer management and natural resource management in Illinois.

On a lighter note, I would like to remind our membership that we rely on ourselves to volunteer time and talents to make our Chapter a successful organization. As we approach our annual meeting in April, we have assembled a ‘Nominations Committee’ who is working to identify Chapter members that are willing to offer their time and talents to help guide our Chapter. Executive Committee positions which will become

vacant and for which we are seeking volunteers to run for office include: President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Board Member At Large. I encourage our members to think about how they could contribute to improving our Chapter and profession. If you are willing to run for one of our leadership positions, please let our Nominations Committee members (Stan McTaggart, Adam Phillips, and Aaron Yetter) know about your interests. I would also be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that the 80th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will be held in Springfield on 26-29 January 2020. This conference is being organized by the DNR, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Illinois Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. We need quite a few of our members to lend their time and talents to make the conference a success. You should have seen my December 17th call for committee chairs and volunteers. Again, I encourage our members to think about how they could contribute to improving our Chapter and profession by offering to volunteer to help organize the 80th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Finally as a reminder, we are holding our 2019 annual meeting at the University of Illinois Springfield campus 14-16 April 2019. We are currently accepting registrations and abstracts for the meeting, so don't delay in registering and submitting an abstract so you can showcase your recent natural resource management and research activities to all our members. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Scott Beckerman, ICTWS President



Conservation Affairs Committee Update

State

You may recall that over the past year, ICTWS has been monitoring [Senate Bill 2493](#), allowing residents to feed deer, in part. Our chapter repeatedly contacted legislators in opposition to the bill and was one of many organizations urging Governor Rauner to veto the bill, which he did in September. In November, during the General Assembly's fall veto session, Senator Chapin Rose introduced a motion to override the governor's veto. With 34 yeas, 5 nays, 1 present, and 19 no votes, the motion to override the governor's veto failed to meet the required three-fifths majority, and the governor's veto stood. Thank you to all members who diligently worked against, and contacted legislators in opposition of this harmful bill. A small victory!

New Year, New Assembly. On 9 January 2019, Illinois' 101st General Assembly was sworn into office. The spring session—when many bills are introduced—will begin in force at the end of January and continue through May. We will monitor the ilga.gov website for introduced bills that may be of particular interest to ICTWS.

Federal

At the end of 2018, the 115th Congress closed. Many bills, including House and Senate bills authorizing the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), were not voted on, despite support from 116 co-sponsors on the House bill. With the closure of 115th Congress, both RAWA bills died. RAWA sought to dedicate \$1.3 billion annually towards the conservation and monitoring of at-risk species at the state level.

On 3 January 2019, the 116th Congress was sworn in and will be in effect through 2020. TWS pledges to work with the new Congress to introduce new legislation to solve funding concerns and will be looking to chapters for support. ICTWS will await strategic direction from TWS' Wildlife Policy and Programs staff and how to engage our federal legislators in hopes of providing federal funding for wildlife management.

For more TWS Conservation Affairs updates at the national level, please read the CAN [January 2019 newsletter](#).

Scott Meister

ICTWS Conservation Affairs Network Representative

News Updates from North Central Section

Activities of the North Central Section's Membership and Professional Development Fund Committees

Membership Committee

The North Central Section's (NCS) membership committee was revived this past year in order to review and update our member benefits and to look at ideas to garner new members. Team members are Jodie Provost, NCS

President, Kali Rush, NCS Graduate Student Representative (M.S. student at the University of WI Stevens Point), and members from IL including Dr. Craig Miller, Kristen Black, Dan Stephens and Gary Potts. The committee worked on three projects this last year. First, we designed a poster which describes the benefits of membership which will be used at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC) each year. Each state chapter in the NCS will be given a poster. Second, we designed a business card also listing our member benefit proposition. The cards will be disseminated to prospective members at the MFWC and state chapters will also be given a supply of cards to help in promoting the NCS. The committee has also worked with the conference planning committee in OH to have a table at the Student/Professional Networking Event in order to promote the NCS.

Professional Development Fund Committee Workshops

The Continuing Education Fund was developed in the past in order to provide funding for workshops and symposia relevant to our membership. The NCS is now calling the CEF the Professional Development Fund. Support for the fund came from state chapters in the NCS, companies and organizations as well as members. The ILCTWS and many of our members donated to the fund in the past. Fund dollars have helped sponsor symposia such as Wildlife Action Plans and the Impact of Lead Poisoning of Wildlife and workshops such as the Impact of Feral Swine in the Midwest and the Role of Private Landowners in Wildlife Management. The NCS had a long history of publishing our symposia, however, we have not done a symposia book in many years. In addition to sponsoring symposia and workshops, we are now in the fourth year of our Leadership Training Series.

The NCS has worked to sponsor and fund two workshops for the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland, OH. The first workshop will be under our Leadership Training workshop series and will be on “TWS’s Certification Program: Workshop and Application Clinic.” We are fortunate to have the outgoing chair of the Certification Review Board, Dr. Timothy Van Deelen as the presenter. Tim is a past ICTWS member and is at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The second workshop we are sponsoring is “Climate Change Adaptation for Wildlife Managers: A Hands-On Workbook Process.” Dr. Olivia LeDee, Deputy Director of the Department of Interior, Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center has organized the workshop.

The NCS is dedicated to sponsoring symposia and workshops in the future. The NCS offers discounts for the workshops as a member benefit.

Go to <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018FallNewsletter.pdf> to see the fall newsletter of the NCS and learn more about member benefits and the workshops.

Why are we doing all this? Because, together, “We are The Wildlife Society.”

Gary E. Potts, Past President of TWS and Jodie Provost, President, North Central Section of TWS, Members of the NCS Membership and Professional Development Fund Committees

Transforming Science Communication and Literacy

A new report from Wiley sheds light on one of our profession’s biggest challenges

We live in interesting times... I could stop there, link the report, and call it quits, but I’m not going to because I’m fascinated by the topic of science communication. In fact, nearly a decade ago I altered my career from studying wildlife to studying new frontiers in wildlife conservation. I say new frontiers because our profession is increasingly operating in uncharted territories. The world is changing, public attitudes are shifting, and skepticism towards science is increasing.

Gone are the days when we could produce a standalone scientific report, retreat to the field, and expect society to exhibit a heightened level of deference towards our research. Some may point to partisan politics or blame millennials because that seems to be a thing, but perhaps, we as a profession have failed to keep pace with the changing times. Our science may reach other scientists but is seemingly lost in the gluttony of information available to policy-makers and the public.

So, what's the solution? Unfortunately, there's no simple answer to that question, but Wiley's report—[*To Know the World: Transforming Science Literacy and Communications to Improve Research Impact*](#)—touches on several timely and thought-provoking concepts including:

- Recognizing the need for “translated” scientific information;
- Fostering curiosity and improving scientific literacy by inspiring others to ask questions and seek science-based answers;
- Making science relatable and the profession welcoming to all through providing diverse portrayals of scientists and by highlighting the personal stories of scientists;
- Contextualizing science and the scientific process; and
- Developing innovative ways to expand the audience and understanding of research.

This is not about becoming activists or about attacking the messaging of others. It's about improving our own messaging, becoming better storytellers, and figuring out ways to enhance our communication while still preserving the depth and integrity of our work. How can we as individual wildlife professionals shape our own personal networks, touch the lives of those around us, and inspire the next generation? Not every aspect of Wiley's report is relevant to wildlife professionals, but I hope the report sparks dialogue within your Section, Chapter, or Working Group while demonstrating that, while these are interesting times, we face boundless opportunity to forage new paths through the unknown.

What do you think? Is the increased skepticism towards science a good thing? What role should wildlife professionals play in communicating science? How do you share your science? Share your thoughts with us on social media @wildlifesociety or #wildlifesociety.

Wiley is the publisher of TWS' three premier wildlife journals—*The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Cameron Kovach – General Manager
The Wildlife Society ckovach@wildlife.org

Call for nominations for TWS Fellows and Group Achievement awards

The Wildlife Society's Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement, and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. We encourage members to recognize the contributions of their peers by participating in the nomination process.

Be sure to submit nominations for the **2019 [TWS Fellows](#) and [Group Achievement Awards](#) today!** The deadline is **Friday, 1 February 2019 by 11:59 p.m. EST**. Honor respected colleagues and outstanding organizations who strive for the success and advancement of our profession by nominating them for one of these awards.

The deadline to nominate publications for the [Wildlife Publication Awards](#) is 1 March 2019.

All other award deadlines are 1 May 2019. Visit our [website](#) to see the complete list of [TWS Awards](#) and find out how you can nominate deserving peers and colleagues.

Please help us spread the word to your members!

If you have any questions, please contact Lilly Matheson, Member Services Coordinator at lmatheson@wildlife.org.

Mariah Simmons – Units Services Coordinator
The Wildlife Society msimmons@wildlife.org

TWS FACTSHEET - Did you know? A list of TWS Member Benefits

Did you know?

[The Wildlife Society](#) endorses professional development and career advancement at various stages through its professional certification programs. The Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Associate Wildlife Biologist® designations validate a professional's completion of rigorous academic standards, educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife. Learn more about The Wildlife Society's professional certification programs at wildlife.org/certification-programs.

Did you know?

The new TWS Network Online Directory has revolutionized networking opportunities for all members of the Society. The directory is an incredible tool featuring a robust search engine that helps members connect with each other based on location, area of focus, employer type and other relevant factors. Its versatility can help you make valuable connections for collaboration, explore job opportunities, find mentors and more! [Click here](#) to learn more about this great TWS asset, or visit wildlife.org to see the complete list of membership benefits.

Did you know?

The Wildlife Society's diverse membership represents professionals from all across the wildlife science, management and conservation community, and from every organization type, including federal, state agency, private and corporate industry, nonprofit, academia and more! The Society provides a common platform for cross-organizational employees to network, communicate, share ideas, and collaborate on policy and conservation issues. To learn more about who we are, visit wildlife.org/about.

Did you know?

Between conference discounts, free magazines and journals, tuition savings through American Public University, and book discounts, TWS members can save hundreds of dollars each year, all for a price of just \$81! [Click here](#) to see a complete list of TWS membership benefits, or [join today](#).

Did you know?

The Wildlife Society membership now includes free, online access to *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. Learn more about TWS' journals by [clicking here](#), or visit wildlife.org to see the complete list of membership benefits.

Did you know?

Tired of paying an arm and a leg for the latest wildlife science and management textbooks and manuals? In cooperation with Wiley publishing and Johns Hopkins University Press, [The Wildlife Society](#) offers select titles to our members at a significant discount of 25-30 percent off. Check out a few of the titles at the [TWS book store](#).

Did you know?

Members of The Wildlife Society receive an e-newsletter, the eWildlifer, each week. The newsletter contains additional wildlife science, management, conservation and policy news, fun and educational information such as Quiz Bowl questions, two TWS Talks per week from our archive of Annual Conference presentation recordings, and important TWS news and notes in the announcements section!

Did you know?

[The Wildlife Society's](#) Annual Conference features over 14 concurrent sessions, 900 educational opportunities, more than 40 networking opportunities, and nearly 100 sponsors and exhibitors. Attendees also get online access to recorded presentations following the conference. TWS members can get all this at a \$200-discounted registration rate. Learn more about our conference at twsconference.org.

Did you know?

There are 27 Working Groups active within The Wildlife Society, encompassing nearly all facets of the complex wildlife profession. Working groups are forums where TWS members with common professional interests can network, exchange information and promote science-based decision-making and management of wildlife and its habitats. [Click here](#) to see a complete list of TWS Working Groups and find out how you can join at wildlife.org/join/.

Did you know?

Members of [The Wildlife Society](#) enjoy six issues of our award-winning magazine, [The Wildlife Professional](#), each year. Featuring news and analysis on wildlife science, conservation, management, policy and education, it's a favorite membership benefit. TWS staff and contributing authors profile outstanding wildlife professionals, cover contemporary issues, summarize relevant scientific papers, highlight new field techniques, and more in this bimonthly publication.

Mariah Simmons – Units Services Coordinator
The Wildlife Society msimmons@wildlife.org

Illinois wildlife professionals share their opinions towards and experiences with public outreach

Joanne Crawford
ICTWS Member

Current: Research Associate in the Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University

Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, I was fascinated with wildlife, but I had few ways to engage directly with nature and even fewer adult role models who worked in conservation. I spent most of my free time as a child outdoors, seeking out the rather common (and disliked) wildlife found in cities: Canada geese, house sparrows, squirrels, and stray cats. The few experiences that I did have with environmental educators and youth nature programs were critical lifelines to maintaining my interest in wildlife biology. When I finally became a graduate student at Eastern Illinois University, I knew that I wanted to “give back” by engaging the next generation in wildlife conservation.

Turns out, I wasn't alone! Many of my fellow graduate students at EIU, and later at Southern Illinois University, were excited to participate in public outreach. Indeed, this commitment to the next generation continues at SIU, as graduate students have continued and expanded the [GRASS](#) outreach program that my cohort and I founded in 2011. Given this great interest in outreach and the new push in our society to engage diverse stakeholders in conservation, I wondered if we were adequately preparing our wildlife professionals for these new demands. The effectiveness of public outreach is an active area of research; however, the degree to which wildlife professionals

are interested in and prepared for public outreach experiences is less known and rarely the focus of research. To that end, I surveyed members of the ICTWS in 2015 to learn about their experience with and interest in public engagement. Of the 67 respondents to the online survey, most were male (84%) and were practicing professionals (82%; 18 % were students/other).

Most respondents (83%) reported that they enjoyed participating in public outreach, but responses regarding the effectiveness of their efforts varied, with 24% of respondents expressing doubt that their activities had an impact on participants. Only 38% of respondents reported having had some form of training in public engagement, but 52% of agency personnel believed that outreach experience was an important criterion for applicants at wildlife agencies. Many respondents also expressed interest in attending a TWS-sponsored workshop on effective public outreach if available locally. This level of interest expressed by ICTWS members is encouraging, and I look forward to offering more ways for ICTWS members to engage in the future. Thanks for participating!

ICTWS Member Publications

- Phillips, A. C., S. Majumdar, B. E. Washburn, D. Mayer, R. M. Swearingin, E. E. Herricks, T. L. Guerrant, S. E. Beckerman, and C. K. Pullins. 2018. Efficacy of avian radar systems for tracking birds on the airfield of a large international airport. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 42:467–477. <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/wsb.910>.
- McClain, S. E., H. M. Hagy, C. S. Hine, A. P. Yetter, C. N. Jacques, and J. W. Simpson. 2018. Energetic implications of floodplain wetland restoration strategies for waterfowl. *Restoration Ecology: In Press*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/rec.12818>.
- Zweep, J. S., C. N. Jacques, R. W. Klaver, and S. A. Dubay. 2018. Nest tree use by southern flying squirrels in fragmented Midwestern landscapes. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 42:430–437. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wsb.901>.
- Shew, J. J., C. K. Nielsen, and D. W. Sparling. 2019. Finer-scale habitat predicts nest survival in grassland birds more than management and landscape: A multi-scale perspective. *Journal of Applied Ecology: In Press*. <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.13317>
- Engeman, R. M., B. E. Wilson, S. F. Beckerman, J. W. Fischer, D. Dufford, and J. B. Cobban. 2018. Locating and eliminating feral swine from a large area of fragmented mixed forest and agriculture habitats in north-central USA. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-018-3702-7>.
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Congratulations!

- Nohra Mateus-Pinilla was awarded the “Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award” from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of La Salle Colombia S.A. on 23 November 2018. As mentioned in her letter of acceptance (in Spanish), she is grateful for this recognition but most of all to all those that have had the energy to mentor and support her, to all the faculty, colleagues and friends that have had the patience to guide her, teach her, and helped her to continue to move forward. – In the end, she dedicated this award to her parents who sacrificed everything to give her the education that they did not have a chance to have.
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Upcoming Meetings

Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2019 Annual Meeting

When: April 14 – 16, 2019

Where: University of Illinois - Springfield, Student Union, Springfield, IL. ([Google Map](#))

Lodging: Baymont Inn & Suites by Wyndham (217-529-6655) Rooms reserved at the State &/or Federal lodging rates/night plus tax. Thirty-five double rooms & 15 king rooms are being held until mid-March. Please specifically mention “Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society” when making your reservation). ([Google Map](#))

Registration: **ONLINE** (\$130 regular / \$80 student / \$50 spouse of member; Registration includes meals and drinks during the conference). Payment can be made at the [ICTWS website](#) via credit card with PayPal or at the conference via credit card with PayPal or with cash or check. Please register by March 15th. Online payments do not automatically register attendees for the meeting so please make sure to also register at the link above.

Call for Abstracts: **ONLINE.** Abstracts are being requested for the 55th ICTWS Annual Meeting in Springfield. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length (15 min for presentation, 5 min for questions) and should be given using MS PowerPoint. Abstracts should be <300 words in length. Abstracts should be submitted online by March 15, 2019. Please review the Annual Meeting Presentation Guidelines on the [ICTWS website](#).

Details: Our annual meeting will kick off on Sunday, April 14th with registration starting at 4 pm followed by a student-professional mixer from 6:00 to 9:00. Monday, April 15th will feature a full day of contributed talks from Illinois wildlife students and professionals with a banquet at UIS. Tuesday, April 16th will include a morning session with contributed presentations followed by a business meeting. We expect to adjourn around noon on Tuesday. Ample free parking for attendees and guests is available at Lot J and Lot F at UIS, please see [Campus Map](#).

UIS Silent Auction: Please bring items to donate to the silent auction for UIS Field Stations in support of student wildlife research. For questions, please contact Dr. Tih-Fen Ting at tting1@uis.edu.

American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society 2019 Joint Annual Conference



SAVE THE DATE

RENO, NEVADA | SEPT. 29 – OCT. 3, 2019

This year The Wildlife Society travels to Reno, Nev., for a joint conference with American Fisheries Society. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) conferences are where fisheries and wildlife professionals meet with their colleagues, present groundbreaking science and enhance their interdisciplinary skills. Each year our conference grows with more educational and networking sessions, and 2019 is no exception. Visit <http://wildlife.org/2019-conference/> for more information on our 2019 conference. We will continue to add information on the conference as it becomes available, so keep checking in.

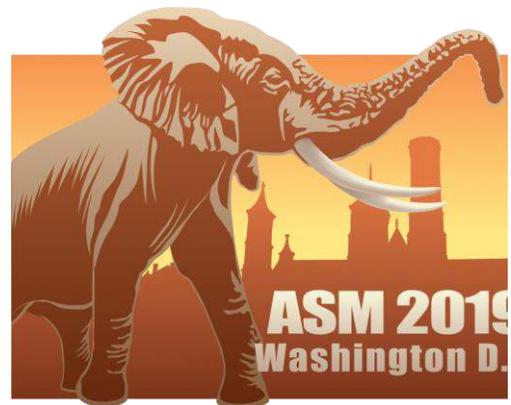
Registration opens May 2019.

99th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

June 28 through 2 July 2018

Washington D.C.

<https://www.mammalsociety.org/whats-new/save-date-99th-annual-meeting>



79th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Jan 26 – 30, 2019 Cleveland, OH

<http://www.midwestfw.org/>



80th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Will be hosted by Illinois

[Watch for details](#)

Student Chapter Corner

Contacts:

Eastern Illinois University

Advisors: Robert Colombo, recolombo@eiu.edu

President: Clinton Morgeson

Southern Illinois University

Advisor: Dr. James Lovvorn, lovvorn@siu.edu

President: Taryn Bieri

Webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/TheWildlifeSocietySIU/>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advisors: Dr. Craig Miller, craigm@illinois.edu

President: Jacob Forbes

Webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/165683637551/>

Western Illinois University

Advisors: Dr. Chris Jacques, cn-jacques@wiu.edu

President: Charmayne Anderson

Webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/WIU.Wildlife.Society/>

Resources

The Wildlife Society staff and Council actively encourage the success of student chapters and provide ongoing assistance to them. For more information on resources available to student chapters including annual conclaves, the TWS Leadership Institute, Career Development and Job Board visit: <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/>

ICTWS Newsletters

Don't wait for solicitation to provide any contributions to the next ICTWS Newsletter! We accept news, awards notices, recent publications, upcoming conferences, or any item that could be valuable to members throughout the entire year. Please email Chris Jacques at cn-jacques@wiu.edu any contributions. Previous editions of our Newsletter are available on our website: wildlife.org/illinois-chapter.

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