

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society Newsletter



@MatthewWilliams

In this issue:

President's Message | 1

Featured Photographer: Matthew Williams | 3

Northeast Updates | 3

2019 Wildlife Field Course | 5

Award Nominations | 6

NEAFWA 2019 Conference | 7

NE Section Election Nominations | 8

PA Chapter Updates | 8

NY Chapter Updates | 13

TWS National Updates | 15

TWS 2018 Conference | 16

Transforming Science

Communication & Literacy | 17

TWS 2019 Conference | 18

Who's Who in the Northeast | 19

President's Message from Michael S. Fishman, CWB

Friends, Colleagues, and Northeast Section Members,

Let me first wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2019! Before I joined the Executive Board of the Northeast Section, I used to wonder what the Section did. I read the newsletters, but I really never grasped what the function of the Section was until I was in the middle of it. I've had to learn fast, but my fellow officers, representatives, and committee members have been great to work with, and the learning has been valuable. In case you're wondering, like I used to, here is a little summary of what we've all been doing since I stepped into the President's role in April:

This year has been a whirlwind of activity in the Section, and I'm pleased to report that we've gotten a lot done. In April, we hosted workshops at the NEAFWA meeting in Burlington, VT, and the President's (figurative) gavel was passed to me. We bade farewell to our outgoing Past President, Terra Rentz, and our Student Affairs Co-Chair, Shaun Cleveland, who moved to the west coast (our loss was their gain); to our outgoing Secretary, Mike Schiavone; to Sydney Spicer, our outgoing Newsletter Editor, and to Shawn Haskell, who stepped down from The Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board.

President's Message Continued....



We owe them all a great debt of gratitude for their service to the Section. We welcomed Scott Williams as our new President Elect ***and*** new member of TWP Editorial Advisory Board, Megan Linske as our new Secretary ***and*** new member of the Awards Committee, ***and*** new Chair of the Workshops Committee (!), Tammy Colt as another new member of the Awards Committee, Tammy Cloutier as our new newsletter editor, Ross Conover as our new co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee, and Colby Slezak as our new undergraduate student representative. Thanks to all of you for stepping up to help grow and develop the Northeast Section! We do a lot and it takes a lot of people to get all of this done.

We had 19 students from 13 schools attend our 10th annual field course in Vermont in May. The field course has made news around the country, and the Southeast Section has been asking how they can start one. Next year's course is scheduled for May 19th – June 1st, and registrations are already rolling in, so if you are interested, or know someone that is, please act now!

Development of our Operations Manual continues. The Awards Committee is including information on the process for awards selection. Position descriptions are pretty well done, but there is still more to do for the other committees.

We had a variety of submissions for our logo contest, and selected a beautiful new logo for the Section that was designed by the talented Laken Ganoë. The new logo will adorn our Section newsletter and letterhead, and we are looking into creating some promotional items for members to proudly display their colors – look for them at the next annual meeting!

The Section continued to drum up support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) by sending letters to congress members (you can send them, too!). We also provided comments on the proposed revised ESA regulations. TWS (national) collated the comments from Sections and Chapters and prepared a unified response.

Student Affairs ran a great Conclave in VT this year, and University of Maine is hosting next year's event. Student chapters should mark their calendars for April 12-14 (immediately before NEAFWA in Mystic, CT) for next year's conclave, and reach out to Val Titus and Ross Conover (see contacts on back page) for more information. We want to increase student (and professional) member participation and engagement in the Section, and to that end we've formed an ad hoc Student Engagement Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to reach out to students and to learn if the Section is meeting their needs, or how we can improve on meeting their needs. We are a member organization – we are here to serve our members and help them in their careers as wildlife biologists. How can we help you? Let us know – contact us using the contact list on the back page.

As you can see, it's been a busy year, but it has flown by. As the old saying goes, "many hands make light work." We have such great enthusiasm among our officers, representatives, and committees, which makes the work that much easier. There is still much to do, so as we come to the end of the year, and into the holiday season, and you are thinking about giving, I invite you all to give some of your time, your energy, your imagination, your thoughts, your ideas, and your enthusiasm to your TWS Section. We need you to help serve you, and the rewards of fellowship, camaraderie, professional networking, laughter, and accomplishment are well worth the effort. Join us, and see for yourself!

Featured Photographer: Matt Williams

Matthew Williams is a recent graduate of Paul Smith's College with a B.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife Science (Wildlife) and Minors in Chemistry and GIS. Since graduating, he has held technician positions working with fishers, Northern saw-whet owls, mottled ducks, sharp-tailed grouse and most recently, black bears, in Washington, North Dakota, Florida, Montana, and Florida respectively. He has been a member of The Wildlife Society since he joined his Student Chapter in 2013. In his free time he enjoys spending time outdoors hunting, hiking, and canoeing. Plans for the future include working as a crew lead on a Mottled Duck Project and later pursuing a Master's once the right program is found.

Additional photos can be found on his Instagram @wildaboutwaterfowl.



NORTHEAST UPDATES

Do You Know a Wildlife Biologist Who Deserves Some Applause?

By Tammy Colt

Soon, the NETWS Awards Committee will announce a call for awards nominations. The Section's John Pearce Award recognizes professionals with outstanding contributions to our profession in the Northeast, while the PF English recognizes outstanding undergraduate students. Our Certificates of Recognition acknowledge the achievements of our peers who have made noteworthy contributions to our knowledge of wildlife management, to habitat improvements, or to public understanding of wildlife issues. These awards are announced annually at the NEAFWA meeting in April. Our section can also nominate people for TWS Distinguished Service Awards and TWS Fellows. We know there are biologists out there doing amazing things, but we need to know who they are! That's where you come in.

Nominating a colleague or mentor can be intimidating. The first step in the nomination process is simply awareness. Maybe there's a student with whom you interact who is a cut above, who works a little harder and asks all the right questions. Perhaps you have a mentor who played a key role in shaping the careers of you and many others. Do you have a colleague who has dedicated time and energy to tackling a wildlife issue, has lead an important project, or has shed light on a new problem? Take note, and . . .take notes. Jot down important details on that person's work. Also, note whom among your peers directly interacts with this potential awardee. These are the folks who can help you with the nomination through gathering information, submitting letters of support, and co-authoring the nomination.

NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

Do You Know a Wildlife Biologist...Continued

When a call for nominations comes out, look closely at the criteria for each award. Some awards honor long-time service to our profession, while others recognize current efforts. Some focus on contributions to wildlife research and management, while others emphasize support of TWS. From those notes that you've made on your amazing colleague, which award is a good match?

Most importantly, don't procrastinate! It takes some time to pull a nomination together. We biologists are always busy and often away from our desks and emails, so don't expect a 24-hour turnaround for a support letter from a colleague. One of the stickiest points is some awards require the person's resume or c.v., or you may need to know how long the person has been a TWS member and how they've served the organization. While you probably want the award to be a surprise, you most likely will have to ask your nominee directly for this information. That can be awkward, but trust me, it's not so bad. Just get over it and send that email! He or she will be flattered that you even thought to write a nomination.

As for writing a nomination, it can seem daunting. You may feel that you're not worthy of writing it. Here's a hint—just be candid. Nobody is judging your writing or your status. The judges are focusing on the accomplishments of the nominee, and your heartfelt admiration for this person is what sells it! Just make sure you are stressing the points that support the award's criteria.

Finally, go back to the award announcement and criteria to make sure that you have all the required documents. Check to see how and to whom these should be submitted. Tip: if submitting digital files, it helps to package them together in one PDF. If you do send multiple documents, use a consistent naming convention, with the award name and the candidate's name in the title.

Now get out there and start noting the greatness of your peers, and good luck with your nominations!



NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

2019 Wildlife Field Course Open for Enrollment

The Section will offer the 11th annual Wildlife Field Course **May 19-June 1, 2019**. We partner with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Castleton University to offer this 2 week course for 3 college credits. Total cost for the course, which includes tuition for the 3 credits and room and board, is \$950. Please visit the course website for details and registration information. **Enrollment is capped at 20 students and as of November 30th we had 15 students registered.**



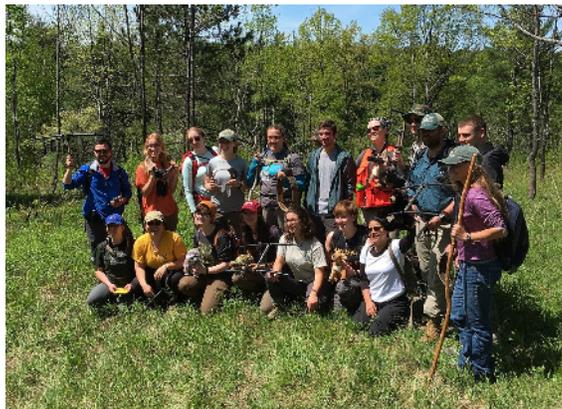
The course is open to undergraduate or graduate students (graduate credits are available at the same cost), as well as recent college grads looking for additional field skills and networking. We bring in more than 2 dozen practicing wildlife and fisheries professionals to lead various sessions of the course, so it is a great networking opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere. Emphasis is on hands on activities - no previous experience with any of the techniques is required or assumed. In addition to a wide range of field skills, we also do hunter education training and Project Wild training; students are eligible to receive certification in both of those programs.

We are always happy to have new volunteer instructors, too. In particular, this coming year, we'd welcome one or more instructors in non-invasive sampling techniques.

Please visit the course website for more details and registration forms: <http://wildlife.org/northeast/section/about/student-field-course/>

Prospective students and instructors can contact course organizer John McDonald directly at twsjcdonald@gmail.com with any questions. Several TWS chapters (New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) offer full or partial scholarships to the course, so students should check with their local chapter for information on how to apply. You can find links to your local chapter on The Wildlife Society's website (wildlife.org).

Shout out to the NJ DEP for their donation of used radio collars last year. They were greatly appreciated!



NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

Call for Nominations—

Awards Presented by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society

The Northeast Section seeks nominations for five awards. Two are recognitions at the national level, and three are Section awards. Recognition of professional accomplishments by our peers is an important responsibility for TWS, and we need our members to take the time to nominate one or more of your colleagues. If you know of a deserving colleague, do not delay: begin gathering the nomination materials together NOW.

All nominations should be sent to the Awards Committee Chair, Gordon Batcheller (gordon.batcheller@gmail.com), except as noted for the Fellows Program.

NATIONAL-LEVEL AWARDS:

Fellows Program—The Fellows Program recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our profession. TWS Fellows serve as ambassadors for the Society, and as such, are encouraged to engage in outreach and other activities that will benefit and promote both TWS and the wildlife profession. Additional information and the nomination form is available here: <http://wildlife.org/tws-fellows-program/>.

Nominations are due by **February 1, 2019** to TWS headquarters, or **January 15, 2019** to the Section's Awards Committee Chair. (Nominations may be submitted by a Section, Chapter, or individual member. Only 2 Fellows may be selected per Section annually.)

Distinguished Service Award—The Wildlife Society Distinguished Service Award recognizes TWS members who have made a long-term commitment to the Society based on at least 20 years of membership, and their actions to further the mission of the Society. Only one Distinguished Service Award will be awarded per year. Any TWS member, Chapter, Section, or Working Group may submit a nomination. Additional information and the nomination form is available here: <http://wildlife.org/distinguished-service-award/>.

The nomination package must be sent to the Section's Award Committee Chair **no later than April 1, 2019**.

Caught on Camera!

Have a fun, odd, interesting, or unique image that was caught on one of your research or personal camera traps? If you would like to share, send it in!

As many as possible will be included in the next one or two issues depending on the number of submissions.

Images can be sent to the newsletter editor at tclout33@gmail.com.



NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

Call for Nominations Continued...

SECTION AWARDS:

The P.F. English Memorial Award—The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section to an outstanding undergraduate senior studying wildlife biology or wildlife management within the Section. Its purpose is to acknowledge and encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth.

Submit the student's name, transcripts, GRE scores if available, evidence of work experience, and a personal letter of recommendation to the Awards Committee Chair. Deadline is **February 15, 2019**.



Certificates of Recognition—Certificates of recognition are awarded to people in any area of work, professional or non-professional, who have made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about wildlife or wildlife management, furthered public appreciation of wildlife, or who have helped to improve wildlife habitat through the modification of land use practices. Any member of the Section may recommend persons for a Certificate of Recognition.

Submit the nominee's name, justification(s), resumes, and letters of support to the Awards Committee Chair. Deadline is **February 15, 2019**.

The John Pearce Memorial Award—The John Pearce Memorial Award is given by the Section to a member in the northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in the Northeast. The criteria for judging professional accomplishments of nominees are: (1) contribution of knowledge, (2) leadership over a period of several years in any area of the wildlife profession, including research, management, administration, or education. Evidence of accomplishment may include but not be limited to publications, skills development, application of effective management approaches, implementation of educational programs or methods. Any member of the Northeast Section may nominate a professional for this prestigious award.

Submit the candidate's name, justifications, resume, and letters of support to the Awards Committee Chair. Deadline is **February 15, 2019**.

NEAFWA Annual Conference

Call for Abstracts and Related Meetings & Working Groups Submissions!

The **75th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference** will be hosted by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection **April 14-16, 2019** in Groton, Connecticut at the Mystic Marriott Hotel.

Deadline to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations is **December 19, 2018**.

Deadline to submit requests for related meetings and working groups is **December 20, 2018**.

For more information, check out their website at www.neafwa.org/conference.html

NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

Calling for Nominations for Positions in the Northeast

Positions available:

President Elect—3 year term

Treasurer—2 year term

All nominations should be submitted to Tim Green, Operations Committee Chair at tgreen@bnl.gov by the end of January 2019. Elections will take place in March, and officers will take their post at the annual meeting in April 2019.



@MatthewWilliams



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UPDATES

Proposed State Listing of Endangered Bats and Birds by the Pennsylvania Game Commission

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is seeking public comment on preliminarily approved action to list as state endangered species three cave bats decimated by white nose syndrome, as well as change the status of three wild birds. The agency's Board of Game Commissioners in late September preliminarily approved a measure to update the state's list of threatened and endangered species by adding the northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and little brown bat. As part of the overall state status-change package, the board also preliminarily agreed to upgrade the peregrine falcon from endangered to threatened, upgrade the piping plover from extirpated to endangered, and add the red knot – already listed federally as threatened – as a threatened species. The northern long-eared bat already had been listed federally as a threatened species for more than three years. In addition, tri-colored bats and little brown bats currently are being evaluated for U.S. Endangered Species Act protection.

Written comments will be accepted on this status-change package until Dec. 31. The Board of Game Commissioners will also accept public comment – limited to five minutes – at its Jan. 27 and 28, 2019 meetings. Final adoption of the proposal will be considered at the Board's Jan. 29, 2019 meeting. Public comments on the bat listings should be emailed to batcomments@pa.gov; comments on bird listings should be sent to peregrinecomments@pa.gov.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

PA TWS Fall Field Day

On September 21st and Sept 22nd, Millersville University hosted the PA TWS Fall Field Day. On Friday the 21st, attendees were invited to Climber's Run to partake in workshops including bat telemetry and thermal technology. Saturday attendees participated in a variety of workshops featuring hormones and genetics, R, wildlife forensics, bird banding, trapping techniques, wetland delineation, electrofishing, measuring and managing deer/forest impacts, and a program on invasive arthropods. Over 100 students and professionals attended the event sponsored by the PA Chapter of TWS. Presenters included representatives from multiple state and federal agencies as well as university staff and private organizations.



Participant Testimonials

I had an excellent time at Fall Field Days this year. Friday night's workshop involving deer thermal studies was of the most enjoyable workshops I have participated in so far. Learning about all of the different tools and technology available to assist in management goals really intrigued me. All of Saturday's workshops were well lead and offered a wide variety of topics that enhanced my horizons. I found wildlife forensics and genetics to be of particular use and benefit to me. It was great to reconnect with some familiar faces and meet some new ones. I look forward to upcoming TWS events. ~ Lane Naugle

This year, I got to attend the Fall Field Days event for the first time! Friday night was a perfect opportunity to meet other members of the Pennsylvania chapter over dinner before attending the thermal deer surveying workshop. The high quality of the equipment that allowed for such clear night vision and thermal detection was fascinating, and this workshop was an awesome chance for us to be hands-on with a variety of this equipment all at once. Throughout the next day at Millersville, I attended the wetland delineation, bird banding, arthropod invaders, and wildlife forensics workshop (and bought some PA Chapter merch along the way!). I loved the variety of subjects covered by all of the workshops that day. Arthropod invaders raised my awareness about invasive plant and animal species and gave me information that I can use to spread awareness to my community, and wetland delineation provided useful background knowledge about the policies that affect how wetlands are managed. Bird banding was an amazing introduction to mist-netting and songbird handling techniques. Wildlife forensics was not only informative but also very entertaining and engaging for the whole audience as we worked together to solve a simulated poaching case. All in all, I thought this event was valuable not just for the knowledge I gained, but also the connections I made with so many other Pennsylvania Chapter members. I am looking forward to returning to the Fall Field Days event in the future! ~ Jessica Brown

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED



Fall Field Days

The PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Fall Field Days was a fun-filled weekend in September with students and professionals alike. As a Wildlife and Fisheries Science student attending the event for the first time with two other members of the Penn State Student Chapter, I wasn't sure what to expect. The event kicked off with a social Friday night at the beautiful Climbers Run Nature Preserve. The location allowed for friendly conversation on the back patio of a restored barn while looking out over the 82-acre property, which included a stream restoration project to enhance pollinator habitat along the native brook trout stream.

Attendants could choose between two major workshops that were held Friday night; an ultrasonic survey of bats along the stream or a demonstration of thermal and night imaging systems. Having had some exposure to bat survey methods in class at Penn State, I chose to play around with the FLIR equipment since I was less familiar with these products. The workshop was very hands-on, and I appreciated the opportunity to test equipment and talk with professionals that use them in the field.

After a brief stop at the coffee and refreshment table, I was ready to go for my 8:00 am workshop Saturday morning at the Millersville University campus. The "Hormones and Genetics" workshop I elected to take surpassed my expectations. The workshop host was a knowledgeable and skilled professor from Millersville University. The small-classroom setting allowed for personal discussion where attendants could ask questions relating to their specific interests. What helped to make this workshop exceptional were the insights and trade secrets gathered from a career in wildlife sampling that the professor shared with the attendees.

I navigated my way to the next workshop, "Arthropod Invaders," where I was surprised to find several crayfish spread between two bins sitting atop the front desk. "I must be in the right place," I thought to myself as I found a seat at the front of the classroom. The workshop began with a discussion on defining native vs. nonnative species and quickly progressed to a show-and-tell style lecture of emergent invasive species in Pennsylvania. As I was invested in the "trap tree" discussion for controlling spotted lanternfly, my train of thought was disrupted by a crayfish falling to the floor in front of me. The speaker momentarily paused and showed concern as he moved closer to the fallen crayfish until he was able to identify it. "Oh good, it was just one of the rusty crayfish—they're invasive," he said as he scooped up the escapee and returned it to the bin.

All attendees gathered outside a small amphitheater for lunch where I was able to catch up with the two other Penn State students. I had worked in a research lab with one of the students over the previous summer studying immune function relationships between white-footed mice and their parasites. As I was eagerly explaining how the "Hormones and Genetics" workshop related to our study over the summer, I saw the professor and invited him to join in on the conversation about our genetic sampling techniques.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

Fall Field Days Continued...

The third workshop of the day that I chose to attend was entitled "Wildlife Trapping." It was immediately apparent that the two hosts of this workshop were very passionate about their hobby. Their love for trapping and teaching others about the hobby was unmistakable, and they emphasized responsible trapping methods. Each attendee was given equipment and shown how to set their own foothold traps. As we stood in a group circled around one of the workshop hosts who was passing out a variety of scent lures, I invented a term that I never thought would become part of my vocabulary. "Scent roulette" seemed to accurately describe the variety of scents which ranged in smell from sweet castor to putrid horse meat.

The final workshop of the day I attended was "Wildlife Forensics" which was hosted by a deputy game warden for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The deputy was not only professional, but also very personable. The group heard stories of real-life poaching violations and how the deputy went about investigating the crime scene and piecing together clues to solve the crime. We learned valuable techniques for investigating wildlife crimes such as determining time of death in white-tailed deer by measuring the pupil diameter and rigor-mortis patterns. Overall, my peers and I agreed the event was a great experience. Between the laughs had, and the skills I obtained, the workshops helped to develop my understanding of the wildlife field. I was thankful to spend the weekend surrounded by like-minded people that are passionate about the wildlife profession.

-Dillon Gruver

PA TWS Joint Conference with PA AFS Call for Papers

Joint Conference of the Pennsylvania Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Society, **February 21 – 23, 2019** at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA

Plenary theme: **The Nexus: Bridging Land and Water Issues**

Abstracts do not have to fit into the plenary session theme. We invite abstracts on any natural resource topic in Pennsylvania and the surrounding northeast region including flora, fauna, water, soils, techniques, human dimensions, outreach, education, policy, and legal or law enforcement issues.

Abstracts are required for all paper and poster submissions. **Paper and poster sessions will be presented on Friday, February 22, 2019.**

All oral presentations will be allotted 20 minutes; 15 minutes for formal presentation and 5 minutes for question/answer time. Be sure your file is MS PowerPoint compatible.

Poster authors are required to accompany their poster during the scheduled poster session. Posters may be no larger than 36" in height by 48" in width (3' X 4').

Abstracts should be submitted by email attachment in MS Word. Abstracts should be typed in **12-pt font with no indents, bold, or other special formatting. Use *italics*, not underline, for scientific names.** Please follow punctuation and formatting guidelines exactly as noted or your abstract may be returned.

Submit abstracts to: Sara Mueller sjm5467@psu.edu; email subject "**2019 PA Joint Meeting Abstract.**" Deadline for abstract submissions is **December 21, 2018.**

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

Opportunities for PA TWS Members

STUDENTS:

Northeast Section Student Field Course Scholarship

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be awarding one (1) \$950 scholarship to an undergraduate student to attend the Northeast Section of TWS Wildlife Field Course held in Castleton, VT each May. This is an immersive, valuable learning experience. Visit the Northeast Section website to learn more about the Field Course. **DEADLINE JAN. 15TH**

Frank Felbaum Scholarship

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society established the Frank Felbaum Scholarship thanks to the generosity of Frank Felbaum, longtime director of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Program and tireless conservationist. The scholarship is a one-time \$500.00 award intended to assist outstanding students who are pursuing a career in the wildlife field. **DEADLINE JAN. 15TH**

Annual Chapter Meeting Student Grants

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The Wildlife Society will offer ten (10) grants to cover the cost of student registration to attend The Chapter's annual conference (Grant will cover cost of registration, the Friday night mixer, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday). The grant is available to graduate and undergraduate students. A portion of the grants will be given to students giving a presentation/poster. **DEADLINE JAN. 15TH**



PROFESSIONALS:

PA TWS Professional Development Grant

The Pennsylvania State Chapter of The Wildlife Society will award one (1) \$1,000 professional development grant to a non-student member of PATWS to attend a conference or professional development program. The Professional Development Grant is intended to provide an opportunity for wildlife professionals to continue their education throughout their career. The grant can be used for registration, travel, lodging, food, supplies, or fees associated with attending a conference or training program. **DEADLINE JAN. 15TH**

Gordon Kirkland Lifetime Achievement Award

The Kirkland Award is named in honor of Dr. Gordon Kirkland Jr., noted mammalogist, and Director and Professor of Biology at Shippensburg University. The award is meant to recognize mid-career and beyond professionals with demonstrated accomplishments in and dedication to the wildlife field. This is a peer-nominated award.

NEW YORK CHAPTER UPDATES

The New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the

2019 Annual Meeting

March 14th-15th at

The Senate Garage in Kingston, NY

Theme: Current and Notable Wildlife and other Natural Resource Projects across New York.

****Early Registration will open shortly****

Call for Presenter and Poster Abstracts

We invite you to submit short abstract and a title. Abstracts should be about 500 words and be **submitted by Monday, January 14th, 2019**. Please submit abstracts to NYTWS.Pres@gmail.com with the subject "2019 Annual Meeting Abstract – YOUR LAST NAME".

Please keep an eye open for The Chapter's MailChimp-based Email blasts and notifications. If you have not received an email from our chapter in the last few months please check your spam folder and update your spam filter. If our emails are not in your spam folder please reply to correct this issue.

Call for Award Nominations

The Chapter Awards continue an annual endeavor by our Chapter to recognize contributions to the wildlife profession by highly qualified individuals. Nominations should be **submitted by Friday, February 1st, 2019**. Please submit nominations to NYTWS.Pres@gmail.com with the subject: 2019 'Name of Award' - 'Name of Nominee'.

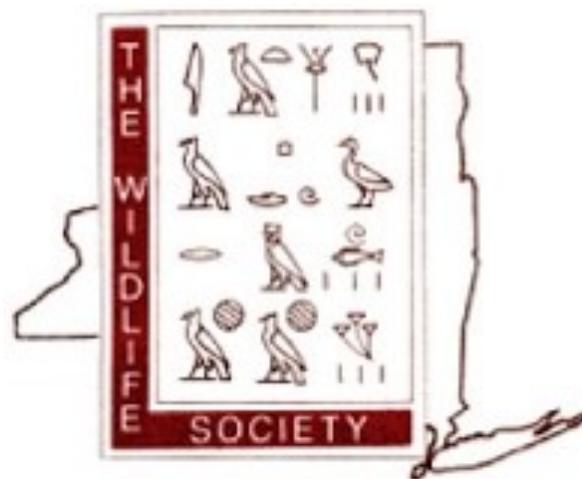
- **Outstanding Professional:** This award will be made to a wildlife professional, or group of wildlife professionals working together, for outstanding, professional accomplishments in the wildlife field in New York State. Included in the criteria for judging the professional excellence of the nominees will be contributions to knowledge, innovation, importance, applicability, and leadership in any facet of wildlife work, including research, management, preservation, conservation, administration, education, and enforcement. Nominees for the award need not be members of NY-TWS. The person making the nomination must be a currently active member of NY-TWS, NE Section of TWS, national TWS, or a student TWS Chapter.
- **Outstanding Conservationist:** This award will be made to an individual, or group of individuals working together, outside the wildlife profession, for significant contributions to the field of wildlife management; for furthering public understanding of the wildlife resource; or for developing, initiating, or coordinating programs in the wildlife management field which have notably enhanced the wildlife resource in New York State.

NEW YORK CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

2019 Annual Meeting Continued...

- **Stuart Free Award:** This award acknowledges a legacy of diligent, focused, hard work. The award will recognize the effort of other individual(s) or groups who have exhibited tenacious effort and diligent professional service in a manner that is inspiring to their peers; and a cumulative contribution that has been overlooked or taken for granted. Like the Outstanding Professional Award, it is intended to encourage and reward the work, accomplishments and important contributions of an individual or group, as opposed to a specific accomplishment.
- **Honorary Member:** This designation is conferred to persons who, by a majority vote of all Chapter members, have been thus recognized for their achievements; they do not pay dues but have all benefits of membership.
- **Outstanding Student:** Two awards recognize outstanding professional service, scholarship, or outreach by students – one at the undergraduate level, and one at the graduate student level. Nominees need either be currently registered as a student or recently graduated (within the past academic year) from a two- or four-year institution in NY State, although students need not be NY State residents.

For more information please visit our web-page [here!](#)



TWS NATIONAL

DID YOU KNOW?

Working Groups within The Wildlife Society encompass 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](http://wildlife.org/join/) to see a complete list of TWS Working Groups and find out how you can join at wildlife.org/join/.



TWS NATIONAL UPDATES

CLEVELAND ROCKS! –The Wildlife Society 2018 Conference

By Tammy Colt

I could list many reasons that you should attend a TWS conference—networking, learning new skills, hearing cutting edge research results, inspiration. These are great reasons, but you’ve heard them many times.

What if, instead, I told you to go because it’s just plain FUN? “It’s a professional meeting of scientists,” you’re thinking, “. . . how fun can it be?” Honestly? Fun enough to make Snoop Dogg call the hotel registration desk and complain about the noise. (Yep, that actually happened, and it wasn’t even on one of our rowdier nights, like Opening Night at the Rock Hall or the “Night of a Thousand Receptions” when we bounce from one reception to another.)

Maybe The Wildlife Society crowd was rowdy because we have a lot to celebrate. Conservation successes were the theme for our 25th conference. Plenaries focused on success stories and milestones, such as the delisting of Kirtland’s warbler and the restoration of river otters. Each morning held an inspirational plenary session, reminding us of all that our profession has learned and accomplished, and spurring us on to our future challenges.

This was my fourth TWS conference, and I think this year’s symposia and concurrent sessions were better than ever. It seemed that everyone was bustling from one room to another, marking their programs or using the conference app to maximize their experience. It seemed the biggest problem for many was deciding between equally desirable but simultaneous talks.



What good does it do to absorb so much information at once? For me, I had affirmation of things I already believe to be true (example: Indiana bats preferred maternity roost tree is elm); learned completely new information (example: Northern long-eared bats prefer sassafras for their maternity roosts—who knew?). You may get to hear and meet one of your own personal conservation heroes (for me, herpetologist Whit Gibbons!). You may be inspired to start a new research project or initiative (thanks to Whit, I’m developing a new citizen science project). Guaranteed, you’ll find more ideas that apply to what you do than you can count on both hands.

And all of those fun social opportunities? They’re the perfect venue for bouncing ideas off colleagues, both those you’ve known for years and those you’ve just met. The 2019 conference is in Reno, NV—who’s in?

TWS NATIONAL UPDATES CONTINUED

Transforming Science Communication and Literacy

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

By Cameron Kovach, TWS General Manager

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 glut 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*.

TWS NATIONAL UPDATES CONTINUED



SAVE THE DATE!

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

Next 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.

We will be updating our 2019 conference website afstws2019.org as more information becomes available. However, our official website launch will be May 1, 2019.

PRESENTATION CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS AND PROPOSALS TO BE ANNOUNCED

The November Issue of The Journal of Wildlife Management is now available online!

With online access included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science and management. Simply login to Your Membership directly through the hub to access the latest content or browse archive issues of The Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, and the Wildlife Society Bulletin.

Not a TWS member? You can still access abstracts and some full studies through the hub. In fact, during the month of November everyone can access—Survival and cause-specific mortality of desert bighorn sheep lambs—a study with important management implications and difficult data to obtain.



WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST?

Executive Board		
President	Michael Fishman	michael.s.fishman@gmail.com
President-Elect	Scott C Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Immediate Past-President	Emily Just	emjust@pa.gov
Treasurer	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Secretary	Megan A Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
NE Section Representative	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Graduate Student Rep	Laken Ganoe	Gan5557@calu.edu
Undergraduate Student Rep	Colby Slezak	Slezak300@cobleskill.edu
Audit Committee		
Chair	Mitch Hartley	mitch_hartley@fws.gov
Member	Tom Decker	thomas_decker@fws.gov
Treasurer	Scott Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Awards Committee		
Chair	Gordon Batcheller	gordon.batcheller@gmail.com
Co-chair	Jim Anderson	jim.anderson@mail.wvu.edu
Member	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Member	Cedric Alexander	cedric.alexander@state.vt.us
Member	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Member	John Lanier	john@ursush.com
Member	Megan Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
Member	Emily Just	emjust@pa.gov
Communications Committee		
Newsletter Editor	Tammy Cloutier	tcclout33@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us
NE Representative to TWP	Scott Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Conservation Affairs Committee		
Chair (NJ)	Eric Schradling	eric_schradling@fws.gov
Member (DE)	Emily Boyd	emily.boyd@state.de.us
Member (PA)	Reg Hoyt	reginald.hoyt@delval.edu
Member (ME)	Rodney Kelshaw	rodney.kelshaw@stantec.net
Student Member	Rene Tam	rctam@syr.edu
NJ Rep*	Lisa Clark	Lisa.Clark@dep.nj.gov
MD-DE Rep*	Carol Pollio	drpollio@comcast.net
NY Rep*		
WV Rep*	Jim Fregonara	Jim.M.Fregonara@wv.gov
*These individuals have not been formally appointed by the section, but are serving as the point of contact for their Chapter. Effort should be made to <i>confirm</i> 1 representative from each Chapter.		

WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST? CONTINUED

Operations Committee		
Chair	Tim Green	tgreen@bnl.gov
Member	Angela Fuller	angela.fuller@cornell.edu
Member	Samara Trusso	satrusso@pa.gov
Student Affairs Committee		
Chair	Val Titus	Valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Co-chair	Ross Conover	rconover@paulsmiths.edu
Member (PA)	Kyle Van Why	kyle.r.vanwhy@aphis.usda.gov
Member (CT)	Miranda Davis	mldavis13@gmail.com
Member (PA)	Frederic Brenner	fbrenner@gcc.edu
Conclave Representative	Val Titus	Valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Student Development Working Group Rep	Laken Ganoe	Gan5557@calu.edu
Field Course Representative	John McDonald	twsmcdonald@gmail.com
Workshop (ad hoc) Committee		
Chair	Megan Linske	Megan.linske@ct.gov
Member	Shawn Haskell	Shawn.haskell@maine.gov
Member	Darren Wood	dmwood@mix.wvu.edu
Member	Emily Just	edomoto@pa.gov

