

## New Jersey Chapter Newsletter

### Fall 2018 Meeting:

### Wildlife “Potpourii”

**When: Thursday, November 15, 2018; 9:30-3:30.**

**Where: Assunpink Conservation Center, Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County**

Location of Assunpink Conservation Center:

- Take Route I-95 to Exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox Corner)
- End of ramp take Highstown Road North
- At stop sign cross over Route 524
- At first intersection past little bridge make a Right
- Enter Assunpink WMA, go past new office
- Conservation Center is located on the right at bend in the road

#### *Individual Highlights:*

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#### **MEETING AGENDA**

9:30-10:15 NJTWS business meeting  
Beth Freiday, NJTWS President

12:00-1:00 Lunch: Pizzas will be provided at the Conservation Center for a reasonable fee.

#### **Presentations 10:15-12:00; 1:00-3:30**

##### **A “New” Tick**

##### ***Adam Randall, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services***

Abstract: *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, the Asian Longhorned Tick, was first discovered in the US during the summer of 2017, it was found on a sheep in Hunterdon County, NJ. Since its discovery, this invasive tick has been found in 9 states infesting multiple wild and domestic hosts. I will discuss the techniques used to survey wildlife and the environment in NJ and VA, what was found and what the presence of this tick might mean in the US.

##### **Predator Management for Beach Nesting Birds In NJ: Challenges and Opportunities**

##### ***Christina Davis, NJ Division Fish & Wildlife and Eric Schradung US Fish & Wildlife Service***

Abstract: Predator management for beach nesting birds, especially when lethal options are utilized, can be an extremely contentious topic in NJ. Recent events in the State have led species managers to conclude that they must do more to capitalize on the support of the conservation community for these activities. This presentation will outline the need for predator management and the strategies that are employed. It will then lay out the approach that wildlife agencies are proposing to better navigate this issue and inform the public.

## Meeting Agenda (cont.)

### **The Pending Plight of the Golden-winged Warbler**

**Sharon Petzinger, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife**

Abstract: The golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*; GWWA) is an endangered species in NJ, petitioned for federal listing in the US, listed as threatened in Canada, in steep decline in the Appalachian Mountains region over the last 50 years. Habitat loss, on both the breeding and non-breeding grounds, has been identified as one of the main threats contributing to the decline of the GWWA population. Loss of breeding habitat has occurred through wide-scale maturation of young forest and old fields, reduction of shrub layer, and conversion of forests to development (Golden-winged Warbler Working Group 2012, Toews et al. 2016, Vallender and Bull, 2016), while loss of wintering habitat has occurred through conversion of forests to non-forests in the area where the Appalachian GWWA population is believed to overwinter (Kramer et al. 2018).

The GWWA is an excellent example of wildlife needing diverse patches of forest in different age classes within a larger forested landscape. It is an area-sensitive forest bird that requires forest disturbances large enough to regenerate a forest stand (Frantz et al. 2016, Golden-winged Warbler Working Group 2012) and has served as the poster child for approximately 40 other birds species of conservation concern throughout its range. With the absence of large-scale natural disturbances, such as wildfire and abandoned beaver ponds, wildlife biologists have partnered with land managers and foresters to actively manage forests and create the necessary components now lacking throughout most eastern deciduous forests. In Pennsylvania and other states that have piloted this approach, the use of silviculture and prescribed burns to create suitable habitat in large, contiguous forests has been successful in producing breeding habitat for GWWAs, complete with high nesting success and post-fledgling survival (McNeil et al. 2017).

Hybridization with blue-winged warblers, climate change, politic unrest on wintering grounds, and public resistance to active forest management all add complexity to an already difficult endeavor to recover the species. In my presentation, I will touch on some of the latest findings for the conservation of GWWAs as well as New Jersey's attempt to stabilize the decline of this and other bird species in the northwestern part of the state.

### **Living Shorelines and Benefits to Wildlife Habitat in New Jersey**

**Danielle McCulloch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Abstract: New Jersey's marsh, beach and shoreline habitat is severely degrading as sea levels increase. Living shorelines can reduce erosion rates, mitigate flooding, and protect communities while enhancing ecological processes and habitat important for wildlife. New Jersey can employ living shoreline techniques to achieve coastal resiliency but it's important for restoration professionals to consider environmental conditions and impacts to protected species.

### **Managing Hardwood Forests to Enhance Wetlands Ecosystems in NJ**

**Ryan Hasko, New Jersey Audubon Society**

Abstract: Forest ecosystems are fundamental for supplying water to adjacent wetlands, and changes in the terrestrial system can have significant impacts on wetland functioning. In the Appalachian Mountains Region, fire was an integral part of oak-hickory forest ecosystems, with some of the drier ridgetops and south-facing slopes historically experiencing a wildfire every 10 years. Fire suppression and a lack of both prescribed burning and silviculture have become the norm in NJ's fire adapted plant communities, allowing mesic species such as maple, beech and birch, along with certain invasive plant species such as Japanese barberry, to encroach and alter how these systems function. Without natural disturbance or needed management, seasonal water levels in forested wetlands may be lower than optimum for wildlife due to increased interception and transpiration, and lower soil hydrophobicity.

New Jersey Audubon Society staff are collaborating with a private landowner in northern New Jersey to enhance habitat on 200 acres of a private property, of which, 74 acres are wetlands and 126 acres are associated upland forest. General habitat restoration activities are to be completed to enhance ecosystem and associated wetland function, by controlling invasive species, managing forest composition, and promoting increased understory diversity. Reduction of woody cover in wetland areas will create more open conditions to benefit dabbling ducks and other waterfowl. Vegetation structure along the wetland – upland interface will be improved for migratory species such as woodcock, as well as other threatened and endangered species. Avian response to the restoration activities will be monitored through breeding bird surveys conducted during and after the project period."

### **Spotted Lanternfly Identification, Biology and Forest Health Implications**

**Paul J Kurtz, Entomologist, New Jersey Department of Agriculture**

Abstract: Spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is a highly invasive plant pest from Asia. It was first discovered in Berks County, PA in the fall of 2014 and now recently found in NJ, DE, MD and VA in 2018. SLF is a planthopper that feeds on over 100 species of woody and herbaceous plants in the US. As a nymph its diet is quite polyphagous but, as an adult it focuses its feeding on Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). The presentation will cover the identification of all life stages: nymphs, adults and egg masses. I plan to cover SLF biological behaviors that are being researched as well as utilized in their control. Lastly, I will discuss feeding damage and its negative implications of forest health and agricultural commodities.

## Meeting Agenda (cont.)

### **Grassland bird habitat associations and competitive interactions at a future conservation grazing site (Duke Farms)**

**Mike Allen<sup>1</sup>, Thom Almendinger<sup>2</sup>, Charles Barreca<sup>2</sup>, Mike VanClef<sup>3</sup>, Julie Lockwood<sup>1</sup>**

**1Rutgers University, 2Duke Farms Foundation, 3Ecological Solutions**

**ABSTRACT:** Grassland bird populations are declining in the eastern U.S. partly due to increased management intensity on private agricultural lands. Areas of large grasslands on public and private open space are currently rare, but their expansion and management could play a vital role in reversing declines. Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ contains one of the largest areas of protected grasslands in New Jersey (>600 acres) and hosts several threatened or endangered grassland bird species. Duke plans to introduce experimental rotational grazing of Simmental cattle to one ~75-ha field (Kaufman) in 2020. This 'conservation grazing' is intended to increase vegetation heterogeneity, reduce woody encroachment, reduce costs of management, and serve as a model of conservation agriculture for farmers. In May-July 2018, we performed point-count and spot-mapping surveys at 238 points in Kaufman and a similarly-sized control field (8 survey rounds, ~10 d apart) to map territories and provide baseline bird abundance and habitat usage data. An index of reproductive success was calculated from mapped behaviors (e.g., territorial singing, food carrying). In 2018, we recorded 17 Bobolink, 15 Grasshopper Sparrow, and 6 Eastern Meadowlark territories in Kaufman Field, compared with 28, 31, and 2, respectively, in the reference field. Initial results suggest forested edge avoidance to approximately 50 m. Qualitatively, territories of Grasshopper Sparrows were sparse in an area of higher shrub/sapling growth. Areas occupied by dense Red-winged Blackbird colonies also seemed to be avoided by both Grasshopper Sparrows and Bobolinks. Supporting this, we observed 7 instances of agonistic chases between Red-wing Blackbirds and other grassland species. Quantitative analysis of these patterns, including relationships with ongoing detailed vegetation surveys, will be of value in assessing habitat associations and responses to grazing in future years.

### **Restoring and Monitoring Bog Turtle Habitat in Salem County, NJ**

**Kristen Meistrell, New Jersey Audubon**

**ABSTRACT:** This project site, located in Pilesgrove, Salem County, NJ, is part of the Salem River Wildlife Management Area and located in the headwaters of the Salem River. This site consists of two discrete wetlands separated by 25 acres of row crops, with the southern wetland bordered by an additional 9 acres of row crops. The northern wetland is a mix of deciduous scrub-shrub and forested wetland with open areas colonized by dense stands of *Phragmites australis*. The southern wetland is a mosaic of former agricultural wetlands and mixed scrub-shrub wetlands. Prior to surveys by NJ Audubon in 2013, the last known observation at this site was in 2001. This initial survey by NJ Audubon resulted in 1 new bog turtle occurrence. Additional surveys and radio telemetry studies conducted between 2014-2018 have resulted in 6 new individuals and 1 recaptured individual marked in 2001. Initial restoration plans included the removal of non-native invasive plants and to create connecting habitat by replacing 10 acres of row crops with native cover. In 2017, the scope of the restoration plan increased and included the replacement of 34 acres of row crops with native cover. In 2018, a local farmer seeded 30 acres of native warm season grasses and wildflowers in the agricultural fields and added native wetland plants the remaining 4 acres to expand wetland habitat. Future plans include continued *Phragmites* removal, selectively thinning woody vegetation, and planting of native shrubs. Additionally, these fields were highly modified for agricultural use over the past century, which provides opportunities to restore hydrology by removing tile drains and strategically plugging ditches. Radio telemetry studies and survey efforts will continue throughout the life of this project to monitor success of restoration efforts and to continue to determine core bog turtle habitats. Presentation will describe the work and the preliminary results of restoration efforts and monitoring studies at this site.

### **New opportunities for conservation of a rare tiger beetle on developed barrier island beaches**

**Joseph Smith, Niles & Smith Conservation Services**

**ABSTRACT:** The dune ghost tiger beetle (*Ellipsoptera lepida*) has declined drastically in the eastern United States. This decline is largely the result of habitat loss and habitat succession, as this species depends on disturbance processes to maintain its sandy and sparsely vegetated habitat. Coastal sites represent some of the highest quality habitat for this species because dynamic processes allow for suitable habitat to be naturally maintained. While coastal sites are among the most secure habitats for *E. lepida*, they are limited in extent, occurring in just a few discrete locations in New Jersey. But the potential for considerable expansion of coastal habitat for this species has recently come to light. An extensive population exists in dunes adjacent to beaches that experience intensive human beach use. These beaches are raked daily and experience heavy vehicle traffic. The dunes are man-made and were built in the last 5-10 years. Nonetheless, the dunes here have considerably higher densities of adult beetles and larvae when compared with natural sites. The potential exists to dramatically improve the conservation status of this species in New Jersey by taking advantage of habitat management opportunities on developed barrier islands. This objective can be achieved by managing coastal protection dunes for the dual purpose of protecting infrastructure and providing habitat

## Fall 2018 Presidents Message

I am looking forward to gathering with you this November for our Fall Meeting. In addition to hearing some great talks, we will be celebrating Sharon Petzinger, a member of our Executive Board, on her 2018 Women and Wildlife Awards win for the Inspiration Category! Sharon is a Biologist with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Sharon works hard to educate the public and community leaders about the plight of the golden-winged warbler. Her ability to inspire landowners to take action and restore habitat for this bird certainly inspires me. Beth Styler Barry, with The Nature Conservancy, was also recognized with the Leadership Award for her work restoring aquatic habitat on the Musconetcong River. I have had the pleasure of working closely with both these ladies and I am a better biologist because of what I have learned from them.

Professional women are inspiring us across the country. As a result of the midterm elections, more women will serve in Congress than ever before. The 2019 cohort will see 118 women become voting members of Congress, breaking the current record of 107. You don't have to be elected to public office to become a leader or an ally for women in science. TWS has a Women of Wildlife (WoW) group to promote and support women in the wildlife profession. WoW is not a group just for women; anyone who seeks to support women in the wildlife profession is welcome to participate to provide mentoring opportunities and advice. I encourage you to follow the WoW Facebook page, @TWSWomenofWildlife to learn more.

All you have to do is look at the agenda for our fall meeting to see that women are well represented in wildlife sciences; half of our speakers are women. However, we have not yet reached that milestone in leadership positions. I was very fortunate to be accepted to the USFWS' Stepping up to Leadership (SUTL) program for the spring 2019 cohort. SUTL is a leadership program, not just for women, but these kinds of opportunities to build leadership characters in our female colleagues helps to facilitate diversity and inclusion in the wildlife sciences.

Elizabeth Ciuzio Freiday, CWB  
The Wildlife Society New Jersey Chapter President

## TWS-NJ Board Member-at-large Receives 2018 Inspiration Award for Work with Golden-winged warblers

On November 7, 2018, Sharon Petzinger, a senior zoologist with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program, was honored by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ (CWF) with the 2018 Women and Wildlife Inspiration Award. According to CWF, Sharon has served as a dedicated champion for stabilizing the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) population. She goes above and beyond in her responsibilities to generate the greatest conservation impacts, truly grounds herself in science, works to apply new research in bird conservation and habitat requirements in NJ, and shows courage defending the scientific approach.

According to Sharon, her love of wildlife, esp. conserving endangered species, coupled with her faith in God, helps her to stand strong and not give up doing what is right, no matter how difficult it is. It is also through the hard work of making and learning from mistakes and collaborating with others that gives us the endurance and wisdom to make a real difference in this world.

Commissioner McCabe personally presented Sharon with the award that night and touched on many of Sharon's qualities and contributions with a bit of humor. Upon receiving the award, Sharon was humbled, honored, and in awe of the award being presented by the Commissioner, but explained how none of this would have been possible without working together with others. According to Sharon, the reason she won the award and the reason golden-winged warblers still breed in NJ is because of the trust and collaboration with partners like NJ Audubon, CWF, NRCS, and PSEG, the sacrifices of her family has made for her early morning excursions, and the support of her colleagues, coworkers, and supervisors, all the way up to the Commissioner.

For more information about other honorees and the Women and Wildlife event, please visit <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org>.

To learn more about what's going on with golden-winged warblers in NJ, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nj/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd1317428>.



Golden-winged warbler painting from Conserve Wildlife Foundation's *Rare Wildlife Revealed* exhibition by James Fiorentino.

Photo: NJ Conserve Wildlife Foundation website

## NJTWS Rutgers Student Chapter Events

Over the past few semesters, [The Wildlife Society Rutgers Chapter](#) has expanded its involvement with the environment and the community. Besides its monthly meetings featuring guest speakers of various ecology-related backgrounds, members are actively engaged in volunteer, networking, and team-building events. The Spring 2018 newsletter provided an update of events and experiences and photos of student's experiences at the Northeast Conclave. Following are a list of upcoming events the Student Chapter will be involved with:

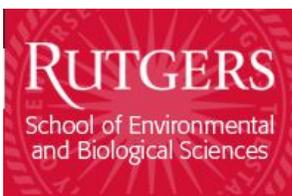
**Thursday November 15th - TWS New Jersey Chapter Meeting - 9:30am-3:30pm** - NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Assunpink Conservation Center, Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth County.

**Sunday November 18th - Owl Banding w/ Tyler Christensen** - This will be an evening trip, with an expected departure from Rutgers around 5pm and a relatively late return time (maybe 10 or 11pm). The maximum for this trip is 18 people.

**Monday November 26 - Student Chapter Meeting #3** - 6:00-7:30pm at ENR 123. Guest Speaker will be Steve Kallessar of the Society of American Foresters.

**December "Movie Night"** - Details TBA - It will be in ENR 123 during normal Chapter meeting hours. Basically, its a way for us to end the semester and go into Exams and Winter break all on the same page! Will take suggestions for what we are watching! Preferably something with a good Nature/Science theme.

**RUEP Bench Installation** - We have the materials to install another park bench over at the Eco-Preserve, and could use help with the install. Preparation for the wood requires sawing, drilling, sanding, and staining and will be done on one day. Then we will create the foundation on another day, which calls for a much digging, precisely setting large bolts in place, and filling it in with a whole lot of concrete. Once that has set, we can install the pedestal base attach the wood. We hope to get started on this next week, and it doesn't necessarily have to be 3 consecutive days.

	<a href="#">Rutgers</a> <a href="#">Rutgers-New Brunswick</a> <a href="#">New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station</a> <a href="#">myRutgers</a> <a href="#">Search Rutgers</a>
	Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources (DEENR)
	<b>The Wildlife Society Student Chapter at Rutgers University</b>

## What Wildlifers Are Reading in TWS Journals

The top 20 most downloaded papers in 2017

By Nancy Sasavage  
TWS Director of Publications and Communications

TWS' three premier wildlife journals — *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs* and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* — support our mission to achieve a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations through the dissemination of science-based wildlife conservation and management. With online access now included as a membership benefit, TWS members are increasingly engaging with the latest research findings in wildlife science.

In case you missed any of these, here's a list of the most downloaded papers in 2017.

1. [Free-roaming cat interactions with wildlife admitted to a wildlife hospital](#)
2. [Polar bear attacks on humans: Implications of a changing climate](#)
3. [Determining kill rates of ungulate calves by brown bears using neck-mounted cameras](#)
4. [Effects of control on the dynamics of an adjacent protected wolf population in interior Alaska](#)
5. [Predicting eagle fatalities at wind facilities](#)
6. [How publishing in open access journals threatens science and what we can do about it](#)
7. [Clarifying historical range to aid recovery of the Mexican wolf](#)
8. [Bat mortality due to wind turbines in Canada](#)
9. [Online hunting forums identify achievement as prominent among multiple satisfactions](#)
10. [Inefficiency of evolutionarily relevant selection in ungulate trophy hunting](#)
11. [Investigating impacts of oil and gas development on greater sage-grouse](#)
12. [The role of domestic cats in the admission of injured wildlife at rehabilitation and rescue centers](#)
13. [Consumption of intentional food subsidies by a hunted carnivore](#)
14. [How open access is crucial to the future of science](#)
15. [Predators, predator removal, and sage-grouse: A review](#)
16. [Annual elk calf survival in a multiple carnivore system](#)
17. [Demography of an increasing caribou herd with restricted wolf control](#)
18. [Manipulations of black bear and coyote affect caribou calf survival](#)
19. [Winter diet and hunting success of Canada lynx in Colorado](#)
20. [Overpasses and underpasses: Effectiveness of crossing structures for migratory ungulates](#)

Log into [Your Membership](#) to read these papers by going to the “Publications” tab.

We want to thank these authors for choosing to publish with TWS. Next time you are ready to submit a paper, we hope you will choose a TWS journal as your publication outlet! Here's just a few reasons why you should:

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- Rapid, rigorous peer review
- Discounted page charges for members
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