

# THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## THE MAINE WILDLIFER



SPRING/SUMMER 2019

### TEN YEARS OF HERON

*By Danielle D'Auria, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

In what felt like a blink of an eye, we finished up our tenth year of monitoring great blue heron colonies with the help of Heron Observation Network volunteers. These citizen scientists often braved mosquitoes and black flies and hiked through thick swampy forests to get a good view of great blue heron nests, which were often in snags in the middle of a wetland, sometimes in what felt like the middle of nowhere.

Their blood (an offering to the biting insects), sweat, and tears (of joy, no doubt) have resulted in an invaluable amount of information regarding our nesting population – how many and where they are in Maine. Over the past ten years, we have learned about 216 new colony locations – some are historic, but more than half remain active since initially reported.

In 2018, 52 volunteers and seven MDIFW staff monitored 90 colonies across Maine, and conducted 167 site visits, including five done by aerial survey. They observed 409 nesting pairs at 52 colonies, and 38 inactive colonies. If we look at all 380 historic and active colonies in Maine and use the most recent data collected for each, our estimate for this year's nesting activity is 767 pairs at 82 colonies, the lowest we have seen yet. The drop in numbers in 2018 is within our inland colonies, whereas our coastal island colonies remained at an estimated 211 pairs on seven islands. Year to year fluctuations are to be expected as birds shift colonies. It will be interesting to see what our

Photo Credit: Ron Logan

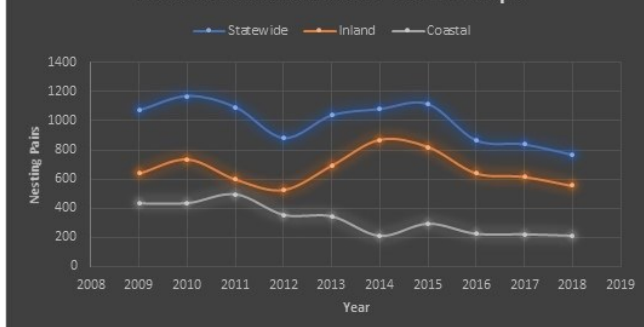


next dual-frame aerial survey (tentatively planned for 2020) estimates for nesting pairs across the state.

While we greatly appreciate the data collected by volunteers, their time spent doing so is critical to MDIFW as a non-federal funding match source. This year they spent 2,301 hours and traveled 3,594 miles monitoring heron colonies, generating \$6,348 in match! Over the years, volunteer time and mileage have provided an incredible source of match for other funding sources that are essential to the HERON program. At the startup of HERON, our initial aerial surveys, field technician and field vehicle were paid for by State Wildlife Grant funds

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Great Blue Heron Colony Activity Using Data From Most Recent Observation\* to Fill in Gaps



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## FEATURE ARTICLES

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and Oil Spill Response Planning funds. The volunteer time generated from 2009 and subsequent years provided over \$27,000 as match for nearly \$21,000 in State Wildlife Grant funds used for the 2015 dual-frame survey, a pilot project looking at disturbance at troubled colonies, and T-shirts for HERON volunteers. In addition to these funding sources, we often relied on conservation partners such as the USFWS to loan equipment, and non-profit organizations – primarily land trusts – to contribute information regarding new and historic colonies, aid in recruiting volunteers, and hosting many informative talks about the program. We even partnered with the Burly Bird sticker company to create a HERON sticker to help raise funds for the program.

With over 300 people now on the HERON email list, and over 1,300 followers on Facebook, we've generated quite an interest in and appreciation of herons among Mainers. Through the Heron Tracking Project, we have engaged students in first grade to college level, and from the towns of York to Easton, in learning about herons, their habits, and their habitats. Funding for the Heron Tracking Project was possible through a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund which, combined with volunteer time of teachers and students, leveraged \$57,000 in federal Pittman-Robertson funds. Needless to say that without volunteers, very little of the work we have accomplished to date would have been possible, and we would have far less knowledge regarding Maine's majestic great blue herons.

To celebrate this 10-year milestone, we held a workshop for HERON volunteers. First and foremost, it was a chance to thank them in person for their service. In addition, attendees were provided a presentation about HERON – how it works, what we've learned, and future plans; a training session on viewing and entering data into the new Citizen Science Portal; and a chance to mingle with fellow volunteers over light refreshments. We also gave out "Decade of Dedication Awards" to eleven volunteers who have monitored colonies every year since 2009.



*Photo (L to R): Awardees Jose and Lea Ramirez, Bonnie Moger, Tim Healy, Olivia Deming, Danielle D'Auria (Project Leader), Sandi Duchesne, and Rick Lawrence.*

## HAVE YOU READ THE CODE OF ETHICS LATELY?

*By Sarah Spencer, METWS President*

In late March I attended a professional conference for Foresters and attended a Keynote Address presented by two enthusiastic professionals passionate about discussing ethics. So passionate, in fact, they had all in attendance participate in the discussion with them and the peers sitting to either side of us. It turned into what I thought was a fantastic active discussion about what professional ethics mean and uncovered the root of why many professionals in the room chose the profession. As I sat there listening to and talking with the professionals to my right and left, I couldn't help but think, "when was the last time I read the METWS Code of Ethics?" I'm embarrassed to say that I couldn't remember. If you're like me and need a refresher, here you go:

Each member of the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society, in striving to meet the objectives of the Society, pledges to:

- Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct;
- Recognize research and scientific management of wildlife and their habitats as primary goals;
- Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, values of wildlife and their habitats;
- Strive to increase knowledge and skills to advance the practice of wildlife management;
- Promote competence in the field of wildlife management by supporting high standards of education,

*(Continued on page 3)*



## FEATURE ARTICLES

(Continued from page 2)

employment, and performance;

- Encourage the use of sound biological information in management decisions; and,
- Support fair and uniform standards of employment and treatment of those professionally engaged in the practice of wildlife management.

If you're a member of The Wildlife Society, you can find their Code of Ethics here:

<https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Code-of-Ethics-May-2017.pdf>

If you're anything like me, this is the first time you've read

these statements in a while. I challenge you to read them over a couple of times. Does anything in particular resonate with you? Do you think this Code of Ethics is appropriate in 2019? Are there any weaknesses we should address? My hope is that you find a deep connection with these statements and practice each of these as you perform your professional work. If you think there should be changes, engage in the Chapter and get involved!

Interested in more? Several natural resources-based professional organizations in Maine have been discussing an ethics workshop for members. If you'd like to participate or offer to be a presenter, please contact Rodney Kelshaw at [rodney.kelshaw@stantec.com](mailto:rodney.kelshaw@stantec.com).

## NEW PROJECT FOCUSED ON SPOTTED TURTLES IN MIDCOAST MAINE

*By Derek Yorks, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

The Spotted Turtle Working Group, which includes the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), was awarded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Competitive State Wildlife Grant in 2018 to fund standardized assessments and conservation planning for spotted turtle populations from Maine to Florida. The primary goal of this effort is to collect extensive population-level data and to allow for population estimates by way of mark-recapture. This data will be used to design a spotted turtle Conservation Area Network that will include many of Maine's best sites. Notably, the 2019 season will feature MDIFW's first intensive sampling of spotted turtle populations in the midcoast region, an area of the state where this species is sparsely distributed at the extreme northeastern limit of its geographic range.

Photo Credit: Derek Yorks



Photo Credit: Derek Yorks



Photo Credit: Derek Yorks

## FEATURE ARTICLES

## WINTER FIELD TRIP: CONSERVATION LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

*By Sarah Boyden, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

This winter, I had the opportunity to attend a weeklong training with Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT). CLFT is an organization devoted to educating natural resource professionals about the importance of hunting's role in conservation, as well as its cultural and economic importance. In my work, I frequently interact with hunters and trappers, so understanding their motivation and benefits from hunting makes me more effective at what I do.

Participants came from around the country and included federal endangered species biologists, state wildlife biologists, NRCS biologists, educators, and administrators. The group had a variety of hunting experience, from no interest in harvesting animals to occasional hunters.

The intention of the course was not to turn participants into hunters. Instead, the course provided a detailed look at the history and culture of hunting and trapping and their roles in resource management and conservation. The instructors included professors, biologists, game wardens, and hunter education instructors; all were avid hunters, trappers and anglers.

In the classroom we discussed the relationship between hunting and conservation, ecological and cultural values of hunting, and hunters as conservation advocates. Discussion sessions provided the opportunity for students to talk about their experience and perception of hunting.

The diverse group of students offered perspectives from a variety of demographics.



*Classroom instruction on firearm safety*



*Practicing shooting skills with BB guns*

The field component covered firearm safety and handling, shooting skills, and a hunter education course. Instructors walked the class through shooting activities, progressing from tin cans with BB and pellet guns, to a guided pheasant hunt on Max Magraw's hunting grounds.

Hunting was optional and some participants chose to observe the hunt rather than participate. In fact, throughout the course, instructors continued to emphasize they were not trying to convert hunters, but the intention of the course was to provide a full understanding of the history and motivation of hunters. Some participants started the course thinking they weren't going to hunt, but after several days in the classroom, decided to try it and had a successful hunt. Others followed the hunt as photographers, resulting in some great action shots for the hunters.

As wildlife biologists, we often focus on studying and managing the resource. This course was an excellent overview and refresher on the continued role hunters play in wildlife and land conservation. It emphasized that hunting is more than the take, it's about culture, conservation values and a shared devotion to the resource. Whether a hunter or not, the benefits from hunter groups benefits all who love the outdoors.

For more information about Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, visit:

<https://clft.org>



*Pheasant hunt*



*Pheasant hunt*



## FEATURE ARTICLES

### WHY?

*By Rodney Kelshaw, METWS President-Elect*



Within the last year, it has become evident to me that this one-word question should be asked more often, and not for the sake of asking in an off-handed manner. It should be asked to gain useful information. The “Why” should also be clearly stated more often to provide information. I know some are reading this and thinking, “No duh”. But I think in our attempt to be more efficient, multi-task, and life-hack we have more opportunity to lose sight of WHY we are doing whatever it might be that we are doing.

I am an environmental scientist at a consulting service. As a project manager, it is typical that I will have contact with a client to determine the tasks required to meet their needs, however, someone else will perform the fieldwork. It is my responsibility to make sure the person going into the field understands WHAT they need to do. Recently I have come to understand that explaining the WHAT with the WHY is important because it dramatically increases the effectiveness of the WHAT conversation.

For instance, let’s say we typically separate features in our wetland flag names with a dash (-), however our new client wants it to be an underscore (\_). If I tell the person using the GPS to collect our wetland flag locations that they should use an underscore instead for this job they may not see the importance and go about business as usual. But, if I explain WHY and tell them that our data is being spliced in with the client’s current operating system and a dash instead of an underscore in feature names will wreak havoc on our GIS staff because they will need to fix it later, we can avoid a

potentially costly mistake. Knowing and understanding WHY may help to accomplish the WHAT.

So, WHY am I saying all this? At a recent METWS Executive Board (EB) meeting we were discussing who might be interested and willing to serve on the EB in the coming years. During this conversation it struck me. Do we even know WHY people are members of METWS and TWS? I can honestly say I do not know WHY individuals are members. If the EB does not know the WHY then how can we strive to provide the WHAT? How can the EB identify members that might be suited to certain positions on the EB? How can we plan worthwhile meetings, workshops and opportunities for the membership to gain what they want out of being a METWS member? At the end of the day, the EB is focused on developing an organization that adds value to our membership; whether it be personally or professionally. Some people may be members for the opportunity to network so they can get a job or know someone willing to be a reference on their AWB®/CWB® application, some may see the value in the workshops and meetings, and others may see it as an opportunity to mentor up and coming biologists. There are many reasons WHY being an active member of METWS is valuable. At the Spring meeting we are going to take some time and discuss WHY people are members so the EB can better understand the WHY and to help provide value to the membership. So, please come to the meeting and be ready to share your thoughts and ideas. If you are not able to attend the meeting but still want to share, please email me with your thoughts and ideas.



## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS

### UPDATES TO METWS BYLAWS

If you've been to Chapter meetings or read meeting minutes from the past several years, you're probably aware that we've made some member-driven changes to the ByLaws. We've also proposed minor edits to improve consistency in references throughout the document. As a Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), these changes to ByLaws require approval from TWS before they can become official.

After several years of changes but no version sent to TWS for approval, we've incorporated all updates since 2012 into a draft version of ByLaws, which have been now been approved by TWS. The next required step is for a

membership vote on the updated version of the ByLaws. That vote will occur at the Annual Meeting on May 30th at Viles Arboretum. The draft ByLaws are posted on the METWS Google Drive for inspection by any member at their convenience as a file named "METWS draft Bylaws\_2017-03-03.pdf"

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-4P0pPb2qc4eVJNRnICWlJHN3c>

and a hard copy will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you would like a PDF version of the draft Bylaws emailed to you, please contact Laura Berube at [laura.callnan@gmail.com](mailto:laura.callnan@gmail.com).

### METWS NEEDS YOU!

Do you have an interest in serving the Chapter, but aren't ready for the commitment of becoming a Board Member? Then being a Committee Member is the place for you!

Do you enjoy planning workshops? What about checking in with members or encouraging professionals to become members? Would you like the satisfaction of reviewing nominations and making recommendations for Chapter awards? Do you already track legislative proposals in Maine or at the federal level and want to share your knowledge and passion with the membership? Are you interested in engaging the public in wildlife issues? Do you work with other professionals with similar interests and who would be

willing to join you? If any of these topics sound like you, then you're in luck! METWS needs YOU!

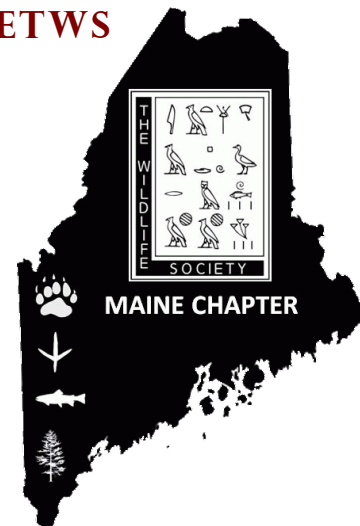
METWS has reached a critical point in the level of individual involvement in committees - we will not be able to continue to function according to our ByLaws without additional involvement. Many of the same individuals have served the Chapter in different roles for many years. They've kept the Chapter relevant and accomplished great things over the years. Every organization requires new involvement to replace those who have previously served and it's time for us to see some new names and faces.

If you you'd like to be involved in a committee, please contact Sarah Spencer at [sarahmargaretspencer@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmargaretspencer@gmail.com).

### NEW LEADERSHIP AT METWS

The candidates on the following page have been nominated to serve in elected positions within Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Please take a moment to read their bios and introduce yourself the next time you see them and thank them for their willingness to serve the Chapter.

Rodney Kelshaw will transition to Chapter President and Sarah Spencer will become Past-President after the annual meeting on May 30th.



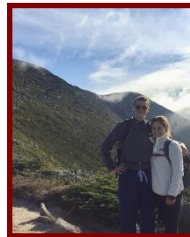
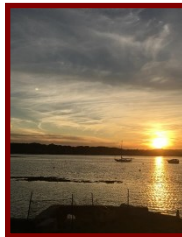
## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS

### FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT: CAROLINE BYRNE



Caroline Byrne is a wildlife biologist at Biodiversity Research Institute. She has worked on field studies involving bats and other species throughout the Eastern United States since 2009. She has extensive experience mist-netting and radio tracking bats, conducting acoustic surveys, assessing the effects of prescribed fire, and assessing habitat. Caroline currently works for a non-profit in Portland, Maine. She also has worked for universities, federal agencies, and the private sector. Caroline received her B.S. in Environmental Science: Ecosystem from Binghamton University in 2010. She has a M.S. in Biology from Indiana State University where her thesis research focused on the observable and acoustic behavior of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) at maternity roosts.

### FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER: KELLY WADDLE



Kelly Waddle graduated from Saint Michael's College in 2014 with a BA in Environmental Studies and minor in Business. In addition to her studies at Saint Michael's, Kelly was an athlete on their D1 alpine ski team, an active volunteer for many organizations relating to the environment and sustainability, and a wildlife tracking intern for Keeping Track, Inc. Kelly has five years' experience working as a wildlife biologist at Stantec Consulting Services in Topsham, Maine, where she has been working since 2014. She currently lives with her boyfriend and dog in Portland, Maine. When she is not at work, Kelly enjoys spending time with family and friends, helping at her family's lobster business in Harpswell, swimming in the ocean, birding, hiking, running and skiing.

### FOR BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE: KELBY LEARY



Kelby Leary is a soon to be graduate from the University of Maine with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology concentrating in wildlife science management, and a minor in forest ecosystem science. Her research interests primarily focus on seabirds having spent two seasons working for Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and traveling to Alaska twice to work with endangered sea ducks in Utqiagvik, and nesting seabirds off the coast of Kodiak Island. Aside from her focus on seabirds she has also spent the past year and a half helping with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife turkey project. Kelby spent all of her undergrad being a part of the Umaine Student Chapter of TWS, even leading the club as President for two years. She looks forward to being more involved in the Maine Chapter as she moves from her undergraduate career into her professional career.



## MAINE TWS CHAPTER NEWS

### FOR BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE: SABRINA MORANO



Sabrina Morano is an assistant research professor in the Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology Department at the University of Maine and is adviser to the UMaine Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. She received her Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada Reno. Her research interest is in large mammal ecology, with a focus on deer and moose. Prior to moving to Maine, Sabrina worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nevada Department of Wildlife on a variety of projects related to mule deer, bighorn sheep and greater sage-grouse ecology. Since moving to Maine 5 years ago, she has been involved with research on snowshoe hare abundance, moose impacts on forest vegetation, and bat monitoring in Maine. Sabrina currently lives in Old Town, Maine, with her husband, their

### FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: DANIELLE DONADIO



Danielle Donadio is currently a sophomore at the University of Maine majoring in Wildlife Ecology with a concentration in Conservation. Danielle is licensed in Rhode Island to rehabilitate wildlife such as small mammals and birds and volunteers at the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island. She also volunteers for a University of Maine Ph.D. student to help capture pigeons, house sparrows, and starlings on Witter Farm at UMaine as part of his research. She joined the University of Maine's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society last year when she was an incoming first-year student. This year, the Student Chapter is hosting the Conclave for the first time in ten years and Danielle was selected by the outgoing board members to help plan the event. Danielle's dream is to one day work on an international level with conservation efforts and to study endangered species. Danielle is organized and passionate about what the UMaine Student Chapter does and is honored to be able to present about all of the amazing activities and events that they partake in and show off their awesome chapter.

### FOR CONSERVATION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR: JOE ROY



Joe Roy is an Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) who graduated from the University of Maine (Orono) in 2014 with a degree in Wildlife Ecology. While in college Joe interned with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. He has 5 years of experience working in a variety of roles across the United States, as a wildlife biologist and environmental scientist for universities, state agencies, non-profits, and consultants. Joe's experiences include capturing and monitoring of black bears, elk, white-tailed deer, and loons. He currently works for Stantec Consulting Services in Topsham, Maine as a project scientist and for the past two and a half years he has performed both wildlife and wetland services. Joe lives in Durham, Maine with his wife and their dogs, chickens, goats, geese, and pigs. In his free time, he enjoys travelling, birding, hunting, fishing, gardening, raising livestock, and weightlifting.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In 2019, The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society are joining together for the first ever joint annual conference of the two organizations. The conference will be held September 20-October 3 in Reno, Nevada. For more information, visit <https://afstws2019.org/about/>



### NEW METWS LOGO & STICKERS

*The new TWS-approved logo depicts our state outline and four symbols. The symbols mirror what the hieroglyphics in the TWS logo read – beasts (mammals), birds, fish, and plants – but with a Maine twist – a bear track, turkey track, brook trout, and white pine. METWS MEMBER logo stickers will be available at the Fall Meeting!*



### METWS ON FACEBOOK

*Don't forget to 'LIKE' METWS on Facebook. Post your photos and share your Maine wildlife stories! Check out our photo albums of Maine critters, read news highlights, and keep in touch.*

**There's something wild lurking on  
your tax return!**



Give a gift to  
wildlife this year -  
put a check with  
the chickadee!



## MAINE TWS OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, & STAFF

Officers, Board Members, & Student Representatives for 2019-2020 will be changing at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting on May 30. After that, an updated list of members of the Executive Board will be provided to the membership.

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS & SUPPORT STAFF

### Audit

Wende Mahaney  
Wende\_mahaney@fws.gov

### Nominations/Elections

Sarah Spencer  
Sarahmargaretspencer@gmail.com

### Awards

*Seeking Replacement*  
*Are you interested?*

### Newsletter Editor

Don Katnik  
donald.katnik@maine.gov

### Conservation Affairs

Joe Roy  
Joe.roy@stantec.com

### Program/Continuing Education

*Seeking Replacement*  
*Are you interested?*

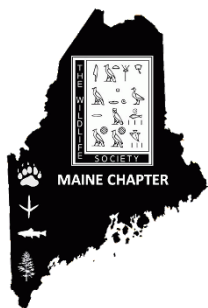
### Membership

*Seeking Replacement*  
*Are you interested?*

### Webmaster

MaryEllen Wickett-  
maryellen.wickett@maine.gov

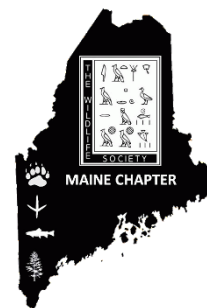




# Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society

## Annual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 30, 2019, 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM



Viles Arboretum  
153 Hospital St., Augusta, ME  
**LUNCH COST: \$10 Professionals, \$5 Students**

11:30—12:15 LUNCH: come socialize and grab some food to take into the Business Meeting

12:15—12:45 Welcome & Awards (Sarah Spencer & Cathy Elliot)

12:45—1:45 Business Meeting (Sarah Spencer, President) *\*requires membership vote*

\*Review minutes from Apr 2, 2018 (Laura Berube, Secretary-Treasurer)

President's Report (Sarah Spencer, President)

\*Treasurer's Report (Laura Berube, Secretary-Treasurer)

\*Audit Committee Report (Wende Mahaney, Chair)

Conservation Affairs Committee Report (Joe Roy, Chair)

Membership Committee Report (Sarah Spencer, President)

Student Chapter Reports (University of Maine, Unity College)

Unfinished Business & New Business (Sarah Spencer, President)

Election Results (Sarah Spencer, President)

Meeting Adjournment

1:45—2:00 BREAK

SPRING PROGRAM: Maine's 2015-2025 SWAP Update and SGCN-Focused Projects

2:00—2:10 Introduction of Topic and Speakers

2:10—2:40 Maine's Wildlife Action Plan—An Update (Amanda Shearin, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)

2:40—3:10 Wood Turtle Conservation (Dr. Matthew Chatfield, Unity College)

3:10—3:40 Ag Allies Grassland Bird Habitat Program (Laura Suomi-Lecker, Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District)

3:40—4:00 Wrap-up