

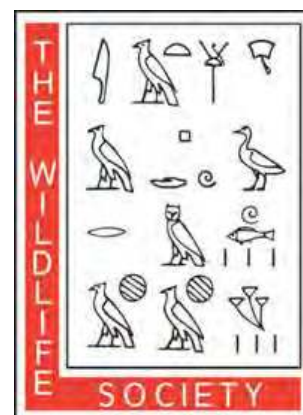


North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Michigan ·
Minnesota · Missouri · Ohio · Wisconsin

Together, as a community, we are stronger.

Fall 2019 Newsletter



AT A GLANCE...

Gary Roloff, Section President, reflects on membership trends and the past year (Page 2).

Kudos to our fellow NCS wildlifers for national awards and honors (Page 5-6)!

Join us for trainings, symposia, and the annual member meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (Page 7)

NCS Elections! Vote here (http://twselection.org/election_ncs_2020/index.cfm) by January 25th. Review the candidate bios (Pages 8-13):

- President-Elect: Matthew Ihnken and Jason Riddle
- Secretary: Melissa Starking and Krysten Zummo-Strong
- Graduate Student Representative: Silas Fischer and Katherine Rexroad
- Undergraduate Student Representative: Emily Barnett and Lauren Emerick

Enjoy the Student Chapter reports, including from national student chapter honoree, UW-Stevens Point, and national meeting quiz bowl champions, Purdue University (Pages 15-22)

Learn about conferences, trainings and upcoming events (Pages 23)

Consider nominating an outstanding professional (Page 24)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

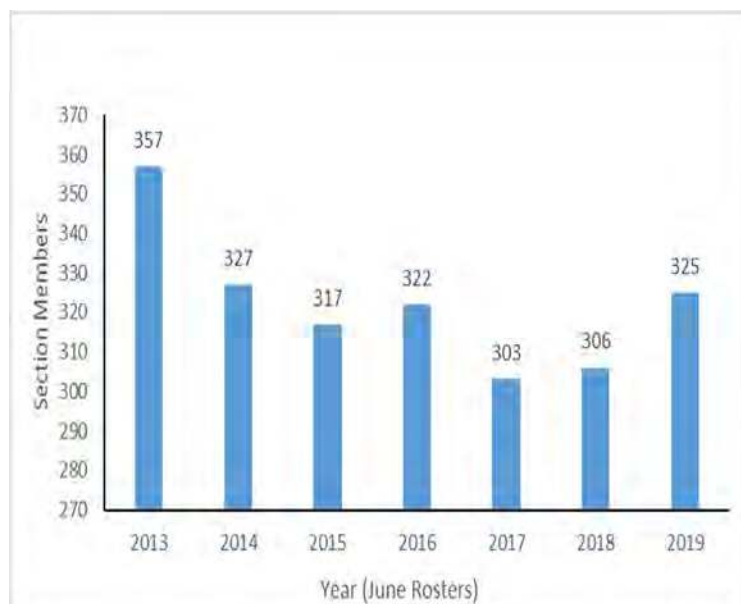
Gary Roloff

Greetings fellow North Central Section Wildlifers. Hard to believe that fall passed us by already; I am staring at 10" of snow in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, as I write this on Nov 12. My term as President of the Section ends in a couple of months, when I officially hand over the presidency to Olivia LeDee during our annual membership meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in January. I am struck by how fast the year went, how much more I hoped to accomplish, and how committed our Executive Board is to making our Section relevant and value added to the members. In this President's message, I reflect on the status of our Section, what we accomplished during my term as President, and what I intend to accomplish as Past-President.

Although some of you may be tired of hearing about membership (recall I brought it up in my Spring message), our membership numbers directly affect what we can offer as a Section. I took a few minutes and pulled our membership roster from The Wildlife Society (TWS) parent organization dating back to 2013 to get a sense of recent membership trends. Since 2014, we consistently hovered between 300 and 330 members (see inset). I believe that part of the increase we saw in 2019 relates to successful recruiting efforts by our Membership Committee (co-chaired by Jodie Provost and Gary Potts), and to those of you that individually recruited new members. I was also interested in how many of our members were students over this time period. The percentage was surprisingly consistent across years, ranging from 13% in 2013 and 2019 to 9% in 2014. Two things are clear to me from this quick look at the data: 1) our Executive Board should continue or expand its focus on providing value to regular members (they consistently make up ~90% of the membership), and 2) there is likely a growth opportunity with student memberships.

Over the last couple of years, we made significant progress on offering and supporting our members with professional development activities. We offered multiple leadership workshops, offered to pay registration fees for workshops, and sponsored symposia. Additionally, we are now poised to offer a substantial amount of travel support to students attending Midwest Fish and Wildlife conferences starting in 2021. During the last year, we: 1) updated our bylaws (available for review and membership vote in January); 2) continued to work on membership and promoting TWS certification; 3) created a different process for identifying and electing student representatives to the Executive Board (you will see this in the proposed bylaws changes); 4) offered our typical set of awards; and 5) identified a diverse, motivated slate of candidates for our 2019 election (Gary Potts chaired this committee, with assistance from John Schulz and Karl Martin). Additionally, we were active in assisting our State and Student Chapters in letter writing for support of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (committee chaired by Dwayne Etter). Things I have yet to deliver on are a discussion with our Student Chapters on better coordinating Student Conclave, updating the Operations Manual, and offering periodic webinars for our members on timely topics. I pledge to work on these the next couple of months and as Past President.

Thank you for trusting me with the Section this past year; I look forward to continuing my service as Past President. Please never hesitate to contact any of your Executive Board Members for assistance, to offer opinions or ideas, or criticisms of what we are doing. Have a safe winter and I hope to see many of you in Springfield at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Jan 26-29.



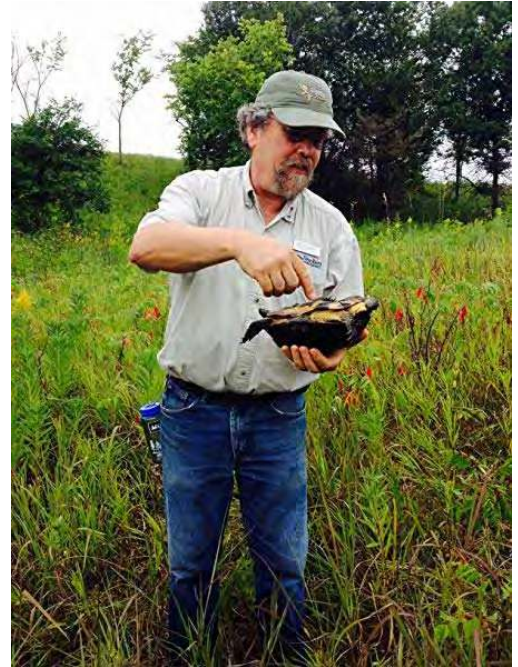
SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

John Moriarty

The Wildlife Society just completed its 26th annual conference in Reno, Nevada on October 3. The conference was a joint meeting with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and attracted over 4300 wildlife and fisheries professionals. The 2200 TWS members made this the largest TWS conference to date. The meeting had over forty symposia and contributed paper sessions daily, plus daily plenaries, workshops, and associated meetings! It was overwhelming at times. Next year's meeting will be in Louisville, KY. Numerous North Central Section members were recognized during the various award ceremonies. John Loegering from Minnesota was made a Fellow. Jodi Provost from Minnesota received the Jim McDonough Award for outstanding work as a Certified Wildlife Biologist. The Student Chapter at University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point received the Student Chapter of the Year Award. Lastly, Don Luce from the Bell Museum in Minnesota received the Ding Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Art. The TWS Council meetings on September 28 and 29, and October 3 provided a number of updates on society operations and initiatives.

- The finances of TWS are sound and under budget for the year to date.
- Membership is up to 10,743 members. The give back program, where a member can nominate a non-member for a free 6 month membership has helped with the increase
- Student members will now receive reduced membership dues through the Student Connections Initiative generously sponsored by the Boone and Crockett Club.
- TWS publications are doing well. Journal numbers and views are strong. There are several new TWS books coming out from John Hopkins.
- The use of TWS HQ has been reduced with a shift to Tele-commuting by staff. Council and CEO Thompson have entered into discussions on what should be done with the Bethesda property.
- The Government affairs staff has been working diligently on RAWA (Restoring America's Wildlife Act). There are over 120 co-sponsors of the bill. Additional information can be found in the conservation Affairs Network newsletter.
- TWS staff is looking into ways the TWS membership registration system can be used by Sections and Chapters for collecting their dues without signing up for full membership.
- Incoming President Gary White made sub-committee assignments for Council members. Incoming Section Representative Pat Lederle was assigned to the Diversity, Fellows, Group Achievement, and Position Statements subcommittees.
- Incoming President Gary White also stated his agenda for the year will include ensuring all Executive Committee letters are posted to the web site, putting science at the forefront of all we do, and strengthening the peer review process.
- Comments from membership suggested the engagement process for development and implementation of the TWS strategic plans was not robust enough.
- Discussion ensued regarding the non-status of the student liaison to Council. Student memberships represent over 25% of TWS members and students (members and non-members) represent over 40% of annual conference attendees.

This is my last update. My term on Council ended during the member's meeting at the conference. Pat Lederle from Michigan is the new North Central Council Representative. Pat will do a great job for the section and will bring his experience in organizational planning. Feel free to contact Pat with your questions about TWS. I enjoyed my 3 years on Council and was honored to represent the North Central Section. I am still staying involved in a number of committees and will be starting the Wildlife Conservation History Working Group to assist in the preservation of the history and archives of TWS, Sections, and Chapters. There will be more on the initiative in future newsletters.



TREASURER'S REPORT**Scott Meister****GENERAL FUND (Checking & Savings)**

General Fund Balance as of April 10, 2019

\$4,072.62

Checking Starting Balance	\$2,475.51
Checking Income	
Membership Dues: 1st Qtr 2019	\$2,090.00
Membership Dues: 2nd Qtr 2019	\$470.00
Membership Dues: 3rd Qtr 2019	\$450.00
Subtotal	\$3,010.00
Checking Expenses	
The Wildlife Society (Drive for 44)	\$250.00
Jodie Provost: Certification signs	\$244.97
Subtotal	\$494.97

CHECKING BALANCE as of November 15, 2019

\$4,990.54

Savings Starting Balance	\$1,596.21
Savings Income	
Interest (4/1/19 - 10/31/19)	\$0.95
Subtotal	\$0.95
Savings Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

SAVINGS BALANCE as of November 15, 2019

\$1,597.16

GENERAL FUND Balance as of November 15, 2019**\$6,587.70****PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Balance as of April 10, 2019

\$44,374.07

PD Income	
Interest (4/1/19 - 10/31/19)	\$278.06
Subtotal	\$278.06
PD Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Balance as of November 15, 2019**\$44,652.13****TOTAL FUNDS as of November 15, 2019****\$51,239.83**

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer of the North Central Section:



AWARDS

2019 TWS Jim McDonough Award
Jodie Provost



2019 TWS Fellows Award
John Loegering
See [link](#) for more



2019 TWS Leadership Institute Graduates from NCS
Justin Shew, Jacob Haus, Bill Severud
See [link](#) for more



**2019 Jay N. "Ding" Darling Memorial Award for
Wildlife Stewardship Through Art**
Don Luce



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

The Wildlife Society's Leadership Institute: learning about everything but wildlife **Bill Severud, Postdoctoral Associate, University of Minnesota**

During May–October 2019, I had the pleasure of participating in our society's flagship leadership training program. I got to know a terrific group of early career professionals and was trained by a wonderful coordinator. My mentors from the program were helpful, encouraging, and genuinely want to see me succeed.

Over the many months, my cohort-mates and Jamila Blake, TWS' professional development manager, convened on several conference calls, completed assignments, and participated in small group tasks. Participants also had 3 mentors assigned to us: an alumnus of the institute, a TWS council member, and a heritage council member. I was fortunate to have meaningful phone calls with my mentors before meeting them in person, and then had wonderful interactions with them in Reno during the annual meeting. For me, this was one of the most rewarding experiences of the institute. I felt my mentors had a real interest in me as a person and in my career.

While in Reno, I loved meeting my cohort-mates in person and exchanging stories and experiences with them all. I feel I made lasting friendships with a group of professionals that share some of my values and also bring other perspectives. We joked that we talked about anything but wildlife while participating in the institute. It was only after most of the meeting was over that I learned what most of my cohort-mates studied! We focused much of our time on ways to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within the society. I hope we are able to make a difference.

The Leadership Institute was a rewarding and motivating experience. I hope to bring the skills I learned back to Minnesota to serve the chapter and perhaps the section and parent organization in the future.



Look for application materials in January 2020!
<https://wildlife.org/next-generation/leadership-institute/>

NCS EVENTS AT THE MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Annual Member Meeting - North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. January 28, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

W04: Leadership for Early-Career Professionals

January 26, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Fee: \$25 for TWS NCS members; \$35 for non-members

Overview: The goal of this workshop is to build technical understanding and leadership skills for wildlife professionals in the interface of science and society, including: emerging challenges to fish and wildlife management; professionalism, teamwork, and collaboration; stakeholder engagement and conflict management; communicating science to the public. NOTE: Participants will be asked to complete ~3.5 hours of pre-work (readings, assessment, observation, writing) to support active discussion and skill development. For questions regarding this workshop contact: Olivia LeDee, oledee@usgs.gov.

W07: Data Exploration to Avoid Common Statistical Problems

January 26, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Fee: \$20 for TWS NCS members; \$30 for non-members

Overview: Trained wildlife professionals are often expected to have basic data collection and analysis capabilities. Whereas most wildlife biologists receive training in how to collect data, few are trained in ways to conduct preliminary evaluations of those data to avoid common statistical pitfalls. Alain Zuur and colleagues addressed such pitfalls in a 2010 paper titled, “A Protocol for Data Exploration to Avoid Common Statistical Problems” (Methods in Ecology and Evolution 1:3-14). In this work, Zuur et al. offer step-by-step procedures for preliminary data exploration that familiarizes individuals with their data and ultimately aids in subsequent statistical analyses of those data. We are hosting a workshop based on the Zuur et al. publication. We note that for each module we will include a brief description of why each analysis is important as well as initiate a group discussion about how to interpret the results in each section. For questions regarding this workshop contact: Gary Roloff, roloff@msu.edu

S-03. Agriculture and Wildlife Coexistence in the Midwest United States

January 27, 1:20 PM – 4:20 PM

The Midwest region of the United States supports abundant wildlife and diverse agriculture, with both substantially contributing to regional and national economies and livelihoods. Recreation associated with wildlife has a positive economic impact, estimated to generate over \$34 billion annually for 8 Midwestern States. The annual market value of crops and livestock exceed \$76 billion. Wildlife represents a cost to farmers through crop and livestock depredation and food safety risks. State level wildlife damage data are limited and outdated, but suggests that agricultural losses in the Midwest are significant. For example, one study estimated that Wisconsin growers lose \$45-57 million of crops annually to white-tailed deer alone. Resources available to producers in the Midwest for integrated wildlife damage management (IWDM) vary greatly, but are generally underutilized or ineffectual, and in some cases simply nonexistent. Challenges include political and social barriers to managing valued wildlife species as pests, complex regulatory jurisdiction over wildlife damage control, lack of dedicated personnel assigned to wildlife damage response, and limited IWDM tools. Many IWDM tools are not scaled to crop production contexts, provide only limited or temporary efficacy, or are not economically viable. Our symposium will focus on updating our understanding of wildlife damage assessments, mitigation, and philosophies with a focus on wildlife-agriculture co-existence in the Midwest region.

S-04. The New Normal: The Effects of Extreme Rainfall on Habitat, Management, and Recreation

January 27, 1:20 PM – 4:20 PM

According to the 2018 National Climate Assessment, in the last fifty years, heavy precipitation events have increased by 42% in the Midwest. In a warming world, this trend is projected to continue, and increase in frequency, into the future. These events, and the concomitant flooding, affect fish and wildlife populations, habitat quality, and common management tools. Reduced reproductive success, direct mortality, and local extirpation is of concern for birds and reptiles. A rapid influx of sediment, contaminants, and invasive species may degrade habitat quality. Management areas may be inundated for long periods and unavailable for breeding, foraging, public access, or recreation. Finally, common management techniques, like water control structures, fish passages, and prescribed fire may provide fewer benefits under these conditions. In this session, we invite speakers to present on changing climate and hydrological regimes, effects of extreme events on fish, wildlife, and habitat, effects of extreme events on recreation and public access, efficacy of management interventions, potential adaptation strategies, and case studies from the Midwest region across taxa and systems. The goal of this session is increase understanding of these extreme events and share knowledge to prepare and reduce the detrimental effects on fish, wildlife, habitat, and recreation.

CANDIDATES: PRESIDENT-ELECT**Matthew P. Ihnken**

I am a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Ecological Services Field Office. I evaluate the impacts of transportation projects to federal trust resources. I chair the Michigan Rare Turtle Working Group and the Michigan Eastern Massasauga Working Group Research Subcommittee. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society for more years than I remember. I'm a Certified Wildlife Biologist. I've been Secretary and Chair of the Biological Diversity Working Group and I'm the current Past-President of the Michigan Chapter. I am running for President of the North Central Section because my experience has shown me that we can do great things together and here in the North Central Section we carry on the heritage of our field. In Illinois in 1935, the pioneers of ecology and game management assembled for the first North Central States Fish and Game Conference. The conference was convened by T. H. Frison and the program identifies talks by Aldo Leopold, Ernest G. Holt, Ding Darling, W. B. Bell, and A. M. Baily to name a few. At the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference each year we build on the legacy of that first conference. We drive our profession forward from the seat of where it was created. I grew up in Peoria, Illinois, not far away from that first conference. Summers we spent in northern Wisconsin camping and fishing. The time spent with my brothers in the woods, lakes, and streams of Illinois and Wisconsin where my love for nature grew. That love would ultimately take me to the University of Minnesota to major in Fish and Wildlife Biology (B.S.). My time at the U shapes the very essence of the biologist I am today. It exposed me the full breadth of our field. That experience led me out west to work for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and New Mexico State Parks. But after more than 8 years the Great Lakes would bring me home. It has been an honor to be nominated to run for your president and I'd be even more honored to serve you in that role. Let's continue to build our shared legacy together.

**Jason Riddle**

I've been a member of The Wildlife Society (international, section, and/or various state-levels) since 2006. I've also maintained membership in the Biometrics Working Group over most of that period. My involvement at the local level has been more pronounced over the past several years. Specifically, I've served as the Faculty Advisor to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society since 2010. Our student chapter has about 20 ongoing research and education projects. Of those, I'm the faculty advisor to the Prairie Chicken, Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock, and Saw-whet Owl projects. I co-advise the Wild Bird/Crane project as well. I served in the President Elect/President/Past-President cycle with the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society from 2015-2018. I am currently serving again as Interim Past-President until February 2020. At the state-level, I also serve on our Nominations Committee as well as our Finance and Investments Committee. I received a Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 2007 under Dr. Chris Moorman and then remained at NCSU as a Post Doc until 2009 under the direction of Dr. Ted Simons and Dr. Ken Pollock. I began work at UWSP in 2009 and still love my job there as the Gerald and Helen Stephens Professor of Wildlife. I currently teach classes in Applied Ecology, Wildlife Statistics, Conservation Biology, and Field Techniques. One of my greatest passions has been watching young professionals develop in our UWSP student chapter as well as our sister chapters at Northland College and Madison. Our state chapter added a permanent seat for a student representative that rotates from year to year amongst the three student chapters in Wisconsin. I believe our state chapter as well as our student chapters are better off from the interactions that have grown out of this representation. If selected as President-Elect of the North Central Section, I will bring my passion for student representation and additional student involvement at the section level. It would be wonderful to see increased collaboration amongst student chapters in our section similar to what we've observed within Wisconsin. As President-Elect, I would be interested in facilitating this collaboration by organizing a Professional Development Fund workshop that focuses on student chapter leadership and networks at the 2021 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Indeed, I believe one of the greatest strengths of section-level organization within TWS is the ability to facilitate and increase communication and collaboration within and between student chapters and state chapters. However, I think we often view sections only as aggregations of student and particularly state sub-units. Our regional organization should result in emergent properties and abilities to leverage positive outcomes for both wildlife and wildlife professionals in our area. If selected as President-Elect, I would like to reach out to other groups with regional organization (e.g. USFWS Region 3, EPA Regions 5 and 7) to explore synergies and opportunities with the North Central Section.



CANDIDATES: SECRETARY**Krysten Zummo-Strong**

I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society since becoming involved with my student chapter in 2007. Immediately, I recognized the importance of The Society in addressing current issues in the field, providing continued education for professionals, and networking for both students and professionals. After serving in numerous leadership roles at the University, I was elected Secretary of the Student Development Working Group (SDWG), progressively serving in each successive position within the Working Group. During my year as Chair, I sat on TWS's Council as the Student Liaison, where I represented the student voice to our governing board. Serving on the SDWG opened up an infinite number of opportunities within TWS and provided me the confidence to go on to serve as a board member of the New Mexico & Colorado Chapters and the Central Mountains & Plains Section. In 2013, I graduated from TWS's Leadership Institute and have remained actively involved with each year's class, acting as a mentor and guiding LI assignments. Currently, I serve as the Immediate Past-Chair of the Early Career Professional Working Group where I have assisted in organizing workshops, symposia, and panel discussions to inform ECP's on career opportunities, improving communication skills, and conflict resolution. During my tenure, we have also created a new professional development grant for Early Career Professionals, and a grant to assist professionals seeking Certification. In 2018 I moved to the North Central Section to begin what I consider my dream career as the Stewardship Associate with Mississippi Valley Conservancy in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Each day, I have the privilege of walking private lands while listening to landowner's talk about the property they love, and then work with them to protect that land through permanent conservation easements. Personally, I believe wildlife professionals won the career lottery, and cannot imagine doing anything else. I have spent the last 12 years deeply engrained in TWS; all of these experiences have afforded me the privilege of learning the inner workings of TWS, and how to apply this knowledge to advance The Society's connection with its members. It is my belief that communication is the most important influence in the success of the Society. As the Secretary of the North Central Section, I plan to increase membership through improved, two-way communication between members and the Section, thereby providing services based off member needs.

**Melissa Starking**

I have been an active member in The Wildlife Society since 2015. Currently, I am a Ph.D. student in the Applied Forest and Wildlife Ecology Lab, supervised by Dr. Gary Roloff, at Michigan State University. I teach wildlife biology at the University of Michigan-Flint and act as the committee chair for the Conservation Affairs Network for the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Previously, I attended the University of Michigan-Flint where I completed my B.S. in Wildlife Biology, obtained a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems, and my M.S. in Biology. Since beginning my Ph.D. at Michigan State University, I have completed graduate certificates in College Teaching and Spatial Ecology. I was honored to win both the Janice Lee Fenske Award and Wildlife Graduate Student of the Year in 2018 from the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. I also served on the executive board for the Michigan Chapter-TWS in 2018. My research experience has focused on a variety of areas including modeling invasive sea lamprey, thermoregulation and habitat use of headstarted Blanding's turtles, and currently white-tailed deer and other wildlife responses to different types of silviculture in northern hardwood forests across Michigan. I have published and presented results from my research to a variety of audiences, both professional and public. These projects have enabled me to work in partnerships with the Detroit Zoological Society, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These experiences have provided a broad knowledge base across numerous ecosystems throughout Michigan, and have involved invasive species, state species of special concern, and game and non-game species. Part of my passion for wildlife education is to share what I have learned; I have volunteered to teach numerous wildlife workshops to K-12 students and strive to further engaged the public in the future. I value my membership in The Wildlife Society, and would like the opportunity to be of service to the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society as Secretary.



CANDIDATES: GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**Silas Fischer**

I am a biologist-artist from Louisville, Kentucky combining my interests in art and science to benefit both people and birds. Birds have been a constant in my life since I was a child – my father is a Research Wildlife Biologist with Department of Defense, and I was born during his dissertation work on Sage Grouse. However, I did not fully realize my interest in wildlife from a career perspective until I discovered The Ball State Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society as an undergraduate. I now have a BS in biology and BFA in printmaking from Ball State University (Muncie, IN). I am currently finishing my MS and beginning PhD work at the University of Toledo (Toledo, OH) studying annual cycle migration and demography of under-studied songbirds. Though the disciplines of art and science are commonly interpreted as being on opposite sides of the academic spectrum, I believe they can be symbiotic and can be used as a tool together to communicate science in a novel way beyond peer-reviewed publications. My professional goal is to be an inter-departmental professor in wildlife biology and fine arts, and to incorporate my own scientific research to broadly explore the intersection of ecology and social practice to include and engage non-scientists



in the ways we think about climate change and the natural world. I have been actively involved with The Wildlife Society since my freshman year at Ball State in 2012, and have been a member since 2013. During my senior year, I was elected Vice-President of our student chapter, and since then I have been finding ways to be involved and create community among student wildlifers. In 2016, I was named the Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate from the North Central Section, further fueling and encouraging me as a young wildlifer. Since 2017, I have served on the committee of the Jay N. "Ding" Darling Award for Wildlife Stewardship through Art, and am interested in becoming more involved with the North Central Section, Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group, and Women of Wildlife. In March 2019, I was among the first cohort of TWS students to receive a scholarship to attend the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) hunting workshop in Texas. I attended the TWS conference in Cleveland (2018) and the AFS-TWS Joint Conference in Reno (2019), and was able to connect with many inspiring professionals in our field. I will push for more of these opportunities for students because of the impact they have had on my career, and therefore I am running for the Graduate Student Representative of NCS-TWS in hopes of creating meaningful opportunities for ALL wildlifers by bringing together diverse student communities with shared stewardship goals.

Katherine Rexroad

I come from a line of women teachers. My mother, a natural science teacher, believed she was taking a few years off to raise me. That was far from the truth. Our backyard became her classroom and I was a student with her undivided attention. My early childhood was spent in the backwoods of Southern Illinois collecting specimens, making molds of animal tracks, visiting the zoo and the botanical garden, and looking at pieces of insects and plants I found in a compound microscope. I was naïve to the uniqueness and privilege of my childhood for years. When I started my Bachelor's in wildlife ecology at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), I was challenged by a cultural disconnect from my peers. Although I loved the natural world as much as them, we had experienced nature in very different ways. Most of my classmates developed their love of the natural world through outdoor sports. I spent years trying to catch up to them by learning how to shoot, fly-fish, and getting my hunting and trapping licenses. However, there are times the disconnect remains. It used to frustrate me, I felt I would not be understood or taken seriously. Despite this feeling, I continued to reach for experiences outside of my comfort zone. As an undergraduate, I lead two wildlife research projects. One project observed the influence of urbanization on cottontail rabbits and their parasite loads. The other project examined population dynamics of southern flying squirrels in Stevens point, WI. These projects required collaboration with the public and student volunteers and presenting results at regional and national conferences and symposia. As my confidence increased through research, I became more active in TWS. I served as a board member of the UWSP student chapter for two years and was elected as the president my senior year. The election communicated to me that, despite our differences, many of my peers saw me as a leader in wildlife. I am still deeply honored by their opinion of me. As a board member of the student chapter, I created opportunities for students to improve their interactions with people outside of the field through workshops on communication with both the public and media outlets and a workshop on conflict resolution techniques. These workshops included speakers who are experts in these areas, such as people from national news outlets. The relationship between scientists



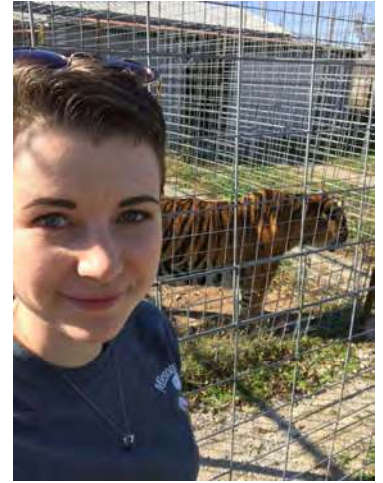
and the public is often critical to the success of the field. I want my peers and I to be prepared to carry the torch when our time comes. My integrity was recognized through the “Outstanding Student in Wildlife Ecology” award, the “Chancellor’s Leadership award”, 2 additional scholarships, and a handful of travel and research grants I received as an undergraduate. I further expanded my leadership skills by working with Student Conservation Association in the Chicagoland area as a crew leader over the summer. I am currently working on my master’s project on the effects of habitat fragmentation on southern flying squirrel population dynamics, microhabitat partitioning, and parasites infection rates at the Western Illinois University (WIU). I was elected to serve as the WIU TWS student chapter president unanimously by my peers. I enjoy teaching zoology, genetics, and ecology labs on a teaching assistantship. I’ve received 3 financial awards in my first two semesters as a graduate student and currently stand with a 4.0 GPA. The wildlife field is rapidly evolving. We are working with a flood of new technology and people with new ideas from less traditional backgrounds. This is especially prevalent in the generation of students who will someday lead the field. I am a strong believer in the strength of diversity and the hidden strength in cultural disconnect. Disconnect, although at times uncomfortable, forces us to expand our perspectives, which is essential in cultivating solutions to the environmental and political challenges we are currently facing. As a candidate for the NCS-TWS graduate student representative, my goal is to help ease our anxiety about the recent variation of thoughts and ideas. This will require more listening than lecturing. I am here to listen.



Tessa Coster (UMN-Crookston) releases a mallard after banding.

CANDIDATES: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**Emily Barnett**

My interest in conservation started early in my childhood. I regularly played in the creek and explored the woods behind our house growing up – always curious about what kind of animals made their homes there, how they lived their lives, and what I could do to help. Today, I am a Junior at the University of Missouri (Mizzou) in Columbia, MO. I am pursuing a BS in Natural Resources Science and Management with an emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife. Taking full advantage of my time in school, I am also earning a certificate in GIS and a minor in Biology. I serve as the Events Officer of my school's chapter of Tigers for Tigers, a student run, volunteer organization promoting tiger conservation, as well as President for Mizzou's student chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Society for Undergraduate Researchers in Life Sciences. These were all clubs that I felt passionate about as a member so I chose to adopt a more hands on role in their development while continuing to learn about how I could expand their influence. As a non-traditional student at Mizzou, I feel that my time away from the academic world has been crucial to my success and offers me a unique perspective as a student. I often reflect back on how intimidating networking and student involvement were to me immediately after high school. This is what motivates me today to help other students get involved and discover the vast opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. I attended Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) first Student Leadership Breakfast and Conservation Partners Round Table event last year and was one of about 25 students able to place my input on how MDC could more successfully reach and engage younger individuals. I would like to build on this experience and assist the North Central Section in connecting with its student chapters, while providing my fellow students a way to share their input with The Wildlife Society professionals. If afforded the Undergraduate Student Representative position, I look forward to networking with the North Central Section as well as communicating with the schools within it and forming a solid foundation both for ourselves as budding professionals and for future students to build on further. I am passionate about wildlife conservation and there is nothing more fulfilling than seeing that same passion reflected in others. I ran for President of my school's student chapter of The Wildlife Society to make a difference for our members, and I am running for the Undergraduate Student Representative position for the North Central Section to reach even further and create a strong network of upcoming conservation professionals. I look forward to continuing and growing my involvement in The Wildlife Society through my college career and beyond.

**Lauren Emerick**

I am currently an undergraduate student at Michigan State University, working towards my bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, with a minor in Environmental Science and Sustainability. Although I am from the suburbs of Detroit, I was fortunate enough to grow up with a family that instilled the love of the outdoors in me from a young age- my fondest childhood memories are the times I spent in northern Michigan with my dad fishing, hiking, and learning about the ecology of the northern forests. As a young animal lover, another large part of my childhood was my involvement in 4-H; I spent 10 years working on two different urban farms near Detroit, founding a 4-H club at one of the farms and serving presidential leadership roles in both clubs. Throughout my 4-H career I won numerous leadership awards, and discovered my passion for educating the public about what I am interested in. My love of animals and involvement with 4-H led me to Michigan State University, where I combined my passion for animals with my love of the outdoors by majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife. Today, I am interested in the behavioral component of wildlife management and how research, education, and outreach can be used in order to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Since being at Michigan State University, I have gotten involved with numerous activities, namely my undergraduate research position in The Research on the Ecology of Carnivores and their Prey (ReCAP) Laboratory, where I investigate carnivore-livestock interactions in Kenya. I am on the Wildlife Committee for MSU's Fisheries and Wildlife Club (a student chapter of The Wildlife Society), and I am a member of MSU's Innovations for Conservation (ICon) Club, an initiative that brings students together to produce sustainable products while raising awareness about the issues of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife conservation. Within both of these organizations, I have taken on the role of planning and coordinating events and educational opportunities to enrich students and spread knowledge about wildlife. I am also a member of the Honors College and the Honors College First Year Council at MSU, where I work alongside students to discuss topics relevant to students here at MSU create a more cohesive community. Moving forward during my undergraduate education, I will continue my research within The ReCAP Laboratory, and begin



to reach out and explore more dimensions of wildlife research and human-wildlife conflict. I also plan to stay heavily involved with ICon and The Fisheries and Wildlife Club, pursuing leadership roles and working to spread the message about wildlife conservation and research. After graduating from MSU, I plan to further my education in graduate school and continue looking at the ways in which humans, wildlife, and domesticated animals interact, and how we as a people can be more educated about wildlife management and conservation. I would also love to obtain my PhD so that I can serve as a Fisheries and Wildlife professor at a university, helping students to explore their passions and become dedicated to wildlife research and management. Throughout all of this, however, I most want to further my involvement with The Wildlife Society so that I may continue my wildlife education and run for future leadership positions. I am excited about the opportunity to potentially serve as the Undergraduate Student Representative for the NCS, as I want to use my experience and involvement with Fisheries and Wildlife to serve as a voice for undergraduate students all across the discipline.



STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

Iowa

The 2020 Iowa Chapter of TWS Winter Meeting is scheduled February 11-12, 2020 at the Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village Conference Center in Ames, IA. Registration will be available soon at www.iowatws.org. We are excited to have Naomi Edelson, Senior Director of Wildlife Partnerships at National Wildlife Federation, as our keynote speaker to present about Recovering America's Wildlife Act. We are currently accepting abstracts for presentations. Please reach out to iowatws@gmail.com for details about the winter meeting. The picture below was taken by Matt Stephenson at our 2019 Fall TWS Workshop in Guthrie County, Iowa. The workshop started with several presentations covering these topics: grazing practices, oak savanna restoration, remnant prairie, and invasive species management. Following the presentations, we toured several habitat projects at Whiterock Conservancy, a non-profit land trust, and Diversity Farms which contains two remnant prairies.



Michigan

The Michigan Chapter is in full swing with preparations for our 2020 Annual Meeting. This year our meeting will be held March 18-20 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. We are excited to offer three workshops for attendees: Animal Capture and Handling Techniques, Data Exploration to Avoid Common Statistical Problems, and Focus, Refine, Deliver: Strategies for achieving effective messaging in your writing. The meeting will feature general sessions and six symposia focused on Snow Adapted Species, Interagency Collaborative Projects, Bird Conservation, Reptiles and Amphibians, Wetland Ecology, High Tech Tools for Wildlife. The deadline for paper and poster submissions is Sunday, December 15th. Conference registration detail will be coming soon and can be found at <https://michigantws.wixsite.com/mitws/annual-conference>

Minnesota

Summer Workshop at Craguns in Brainerd on August 29 this year. The workshop theme was: "50 Years Ago Today-How Minnesota's Natural Resources Have Changed Over the Last Fifty Years Perspectives from Long Standing Natural Resource Professionals". Natural resource professionals presented perspectives on changes to wildlife habitats they have individually experienced during their long careers. All habitats were represented. Each presenter did an outstanding job presenting their topic. The Panel Session at the end of the day garnered important and very interesting discussions. The workshop was successful in that approximately 75 folks both young and old showed up. For those who could not make the meeting, the event was also video-taped and when the "movie" is available, we will share the link. In addition, if anyone would like a copy of the agenda, bio's and/or abstract, let Bruce Anderson know (bandersons1953@outlook.com).

STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

This year the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has started on a high note. We were incredibly honored to receive the National and North Central Student Chapter of the Year awards! Both awards mean a lot to our organization and are very humbling. Our fall research projects have had and are having great field seasons: Saw-whet owl banding had all-time highs this year, our small mammal project had great success trapping and surveying small mammal communities, and the Adopt-a-Wildlife-Area project has already begun hosting workdays! This year we also created a new project which will focus on freshwater mussels and their overall abundance in our streams. Another new partnership and project that we have fostered is enrolling in the Wisconsin DNR's Adopt-a-Kiosk program! We have partnered with UWSP's Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) and Izaak Walton League to construct and maintain a CWD kiosk located in Stevens Point. We are very excited to help the DNR and work closely with these other student organizations. Overall, it has been a busy semester with various projects, social events, and coordinating this new partnership. We look forward to what the rest of the year brings! See you all in Springfield!

TWS member helping to construct the new UWSP TWS and BHA sponsored CWD Kiosk as a part of the new partnership in the Wisconsin DNR's Adopt-a-Kiosk program



Purdue University

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been active both in the field and in the classroom this Fall. Our Quiz Bowl team took first place at the TWS/AFS Joint National Conference in Reno, Nevada this year. Purdue has been working its way up the competition ranks the past few years, but this is the first championship win for us! Student members who attended conference had a fantastic experience making connections with other students and professionals and were able to share those experiences with fellow students on campus. Later in the season, a group journeyed to the Efrogmson Restoration at Kankakee Sands to help The Nature Conservancy harvest seed for planting prairie. Student members



collected seed by hand and learned about how prairie seeds are processed before for planting and got to do some herping for wild snakes while they worked. Students also got to participate in an invasive species removal; cutting and treating honeysuckle in one of Purdue's forest properties while generating funds for their chapter. Finally, students assisted the Indiana DNR at deer checking stations this hunting season, examining carcasses for signs of Chronic Wasting Disease and generating funds for the club. Aside from the field, we've held meetings to write letters to state representatives about the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, taught students to use telemetry to locate collars, and held panel discussions with graduate students and professors. We've had a successful Fall, and we are excited for what Spring will bring!

University of Minnesota, Crookston

By Chris Call, President

Twenty-six students at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) have pledged to be active members in the Student Chapter of TWS. Student Chapter members set up a club booth at the annual UMC Involvement Expo to recruit students from across campus. We displayed skulls, furs, and antlers to entice curious students to visit and learn about our club activities. In September, student members experienced the thrill of capturing and banding ducks at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. The Student Chapter also partnered with the UMC Natural Resources Club and took a trip to White Butte; the highest point in North Dakota! Students camped at Sully Creek State Park and explored the area visiting places like Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Burning Coal Vein Campground, and Makoshika State Park in Montana! The Student Chapter is looking forward to bud capping white pine seedlings at Itasca State Park on National Public Lands Day. In November, we will help the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at Chronic Wasting Disease check stations as well as volunteering at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge to support a deer hunt for the disabled and a Christmas tree cut in December. We are looking forward to what the semester brings!



Western Illinois University

The Western Illinois University (WIU) chapter of the Wildlife Society started the fall semester by expanding our chapter to more undergraduates through a handful of campus outreach events. We also had volunteers present to the public on wildlife and wildlife careers at "Event on the Square" in downtown Macomb. The WIU chapter of TWS partnered with the WIU fisheries chapter to host an invasive carp fish fry for the public. Later in the semester, we held a fecal sedimentation workshop for our members interested in learning about disease ecology. Additionally, Ben Craddock hosted a plant identification workshop to teach students about how vegetation impacts wildlife habitat. Five of our new members had the opportunity to learn and practice telemetry while volunteering on the flying squirrel project at the Kibbe

Biological Life Sciences research station in Warsaw, IL. We are looking forward to sending three of our undergraduate members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference using the funding we helped earn during the fish fry.

Northern Michigan University

To start the year off, we had several of our members give short presentations on their summer positions to demonstrate the multitude of opportunities available in the field of biology and inspire others to apply for these opportunities. We offer a multitude of hands on experiences this first semester such as our small mammals trapping trip, Pictured Rocks electrofishing trip, and deer aging workshop. We host meetings once a week with the goal to have a guest speaker every week. Our goal with bringing in these different professionals is to give people an idea on the route others took and to show them that with a little hard work, it is possible to get a full time position doing some amazing things in this field. It is also important to us to show the broad variety of jobs in private/nonprofit, state, and federal sectors. Coming up, we plan to host a CV/resume building workshop, how to find and apply for jobs, and a graduate school talk. We will have a board member from the local Trout Unlimited chapter talk about human dimensions in the fisheries and wildlife field, another important aspect we feel students do not always things about. We are currently in the works of applying for a grant to send about 15 of our members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Illinois this winter. We are also in the works of planning a river cleanup on several of the local rivers in the area as well.



Pictured Rocks Electrofishing Trip

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The TWS student chapter at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, the Fisheries and Wildlife Club, has organized several professional development events for students since September. To date, we have organized three bird-related excursions including passerine banding at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, saw-whet owl banding at Weaver Dunes Field Station and hawk banding with bander Frank Taylor. During the first few weeks of class, we organized a graduate student panel to help undergraduate students connect with research projects. We also set up private tours at Como Zoo and the Bell Museum's Bird Collection. The club recently started assisting with graduate research on urban canids that has given students experience constructing equipment, checking traps and collaring red foxes and coyotes. Additionally, we partnered with other U of MN- Twin Cities clubs to arrange field outings for National Public Lands Day and for prairie seed collection. The Fisheries and Wildlife Club is excited to continue investing in early career members through networking, collaborations and skill-building events.



University of Central Missouri

- Dove Opener: September 1st, 2019, members of the UCM Chapter of TWS participated in the Annual Dove Opener at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Conservation Area. UCM partnered with MCD, and students removed one wing from multiple doves brought in by hunters attending opening day. The wings are then used for aging and population research data.
- Family Outdoors Day: On September 28th, 2019, the UCM Chapter of TWS participated in the annual Family Outdoors Day at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Conservation Area. There, the students led an educational booth about Missouri mammal tracks and educated the public on how to identify them.
- Fall Beautification Day: On October 5th, 2019, the UCM TWS teamed up with Knob Noster State Park in their event, Beautification Day. During this event, the students assisted the naturalist with the removal of the invasive species Bush Honeysuckle.
- MOTWS and MOAFS Fall Workshop: On the weekend of October 18th-20th, UCM TWS participated in a workshop



run by the MOTWS. There the students participated in a variety of activities and lessons like fisheries management and sampling methods, wildlife management, and outdoor skills.

- Clearfork Creek Clean-Up: On October 26th, 2019, the UCM TWS teamed up with Knob Noster State Park for Clearfork Creek Clean up. There the TWS members cleaned up trash out of the creek.

- Deer Aging: On the opening weekend of rifle season, the 16th and 17th of November, UCM TWS will partner with MDC on deer aging. Deer aging is a data collection service where the Missouri Department of Conservation reaches out to UCM TWS for help in collecting deer teeth and real data to track Missouri herds.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

- March 6, 2019- Adam Phillips attended our meeting to talk about opportunities through TWS and the IDNR.
- March 24, 2019- Our members took a trip to Snake Rd. in LaRue Pine Hills of Southern Illinois to experience the snake migration.
- April 3, 2019- SIU grad students, Kate Amspacher and Tatiana Gettelman, provided instruction on how to perform telemetry and how to use various live traps.
- April 14-16, 2019- Our members attended the Illinois State TWS Chapter Annual Meeting in Springfield, IL at the University of Illinois. One of our members won 2nd place in the poster sessions.
- April 26-28, 2019- Our members camped in Mark Twain NF and visited Johnson's Shut-ins, Elephant Rock State Park, and various glades and natural areas.
- Summer 2019- Members helped the IDNR band geese at the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds and Kinkaid lake.
- September 11, 2019- Guest Speaker Scott Ballard, herpetologist from IDNR, spoke at our meeting about his work and brought in a few rescued reptiles and amphibians.
- September 21, 2019- Our members took a trip to Snake Rd. in LaRue Pine Hills of Southern Illinois to experience the snake migration.
- September 25, 2019- Outdoor photography workshop with grad students John O'Connell and Jess Esposito.
- October 9, 2019- Guest speaker Cassandra Skaggs, NWR specialist from Crab Orchard NWR, spoke about the uniqueness and function of Crab Orchard NWR.
- October 11-13, 2019- Eight of our members camped in KY, visited Mammoth Cave NP, and took a cave tour.
- November 10- Invasive species removal at Touch of Nature.

Ball State

By Kalee Snorden, President



TWS members at the Clash of the Sciences event with Big Brown Bats, Chocolate and Petunia.

Our Fall Semester began with successful member-recruitment and annual Bonfire for members to mingle. This semester, we assisted with on-going research projects by Ball State students such as migratory bird banding, small mammal trapping, and Northern Saw-whet Owl banding! Additionally, members participated in a CV building workshop and internship night. Ball State TWS has been involved in the Muncie community by volunteering with Annual White River Clean-up and again with Red Tail Land Conservancy removing invasive species and picking-up trash. Members have also participated in Ball State's 'Clash of the Sciences' where science-oriented groups face off to educate the Muncie community about science (in our case wildlife) in a fun, engaging way! We presented a program called 'How to be a Bat Biologist' to over 150 attendees featuring the education bats, Chocolate and Petunia, from Ball State's Wildlife Lab. To end the semester, TWS members will assist at Indiana DNR Deer Check stations for Chronic Wasting Disease. At our biweekly meetings we had several exciting speakers, including the director of Red Tail Land Conservancy (a local land trust) and Jessica Merkling, the North Urban Biologist for Indiana DNR. As our last meeting of the semester, we are looking forward to hearing Dana Reckelhoff, Interpretive Naturalist for the IDNR at Patoka Lake State Park, speak along with her education raptors! In addition to speakers, we have held a few trivia nights and have co-hosted a viewing of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's *Bird of Prey: The Story of the Rarest Eagle in the World* with the Robert Cooper Audubon Society. All things considered, our Fall semester was a whirlwind of activity and we are looking forward to more activities during the spring semester!

Northland College

At the Northland Chapter of the Wildlife Society, we pride ourselves in providing a wide range of educational and professional development opportunities for our members in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. This fall, we have held several club workshops to give our members hands-on experiences with valuable field skills in the wildlife profession such as learning how to set up a trail camera on campus and doing VHF radio telemetry. Our members get to enjoy their hard work and gain a greater appreciation for the wildlife that live on campus including seeing photos of a big black bear we recently caught on our trail camera! Last spring, we also partnered with the US Forest Service to volunteer with lek surveys for sharp-tailed grouse, a species of local conservation concern, in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Annually, our student chapter travels to professional conferences such as the Wisconsin Wildlife Society meeting last winter where our members presented the really cool research they did ranging from looking at how gray foxes climb trees to the hibernation behaviors of black bears.



Missouri Western State University

Our student chapter had a phenomenal 2019 fall semester. We had a huge boost in membership compared to previous fall semesters. To start off the semester, we volunteered at three different events in one weekend: Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch assisting professionals with outreach and education of prairie ecosystems, Insect-O-Rama at the Remington Nature Center teaching children about insects, and the first of two Monarch Tagging days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge netting and tagging monarchs. We help with many events at Loess Bluffs NWR. Other than Monarch Tagging, we help with seed collecting to maintain native prairies, deer spotlighting surveys, tree planting, disabled managed deer hunts, and in December, we will be participating in our last event of the semester at Eagle Days. This is a large event within the community, and a great way to end the semester on. With our partnership with The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), we had two trail workdays, helping to rebuild trails and doing invasive species control. Members were able to be trained on deer aging by MDC, and soon, we are participating in four counties across Missouri to help MDC collect data on the deer populations. Members were also helped run Park after Dark, a new event with MDC where students helped teach kids about their senses. MDC allowed our students to help with quail covey count surveys. We had the highest attendance at the State Chapter Workshop of any other schools, and our members benefited greatly by this experience.

**Missouri State University**

We are the Missouri State University chapter of The Wildlife Society. We've had a lot of great opportunities to express passions for wildlife and to develop professional skills through events such as water quality monitoring, habitat maintenance, and prescribed burns. Here, two special events are highlighted: The Fall Swarm Bat Survey and The Age at Harvest Deer Aging Workshop. In October, we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to participate in The Fall Swarm Bat Survey with the Missouri Department of Conservation. We hiked down to the mouth of a cave where members learned how to trap bats using the harp trap technique. Upon collection, we also gained experience in identifying the species caught and using different methods of data collection. To end October, we hosted a white-tailed deer aging workshop with Missouri Department of Conservation. This workshop was held to help members prepare for Age at Harvest during opening weekend for rifle season. Members learned how to age deer based on tooth arrangement, along with various forms of data collection such as antler circumference, and how to tag. Age at Harvest is a great hands-on experience. Not only do members get to work in the field and collect hard data, they also get to speak to hunters and get a foot in the door with a professional organization. Through all the events we've had that allow members to express their passions and develop professionally, it's been a wonderful year. We look forward to all the upcoming opportunities.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Wildlife Society - Student Chapter at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has had an eventful semester since school started in August. We held our first introductory meeting in early September for new members to learn about the organization, meet executive board, and brainstorm future event ideas. Our first field trip also took place in September, where members helped with the Upper Sangamon River Conservancy Annual River Cleanup. The next field trip took members on a snake survey at Vermillion River Observatory in Danville, IL. There, a former chapter president taught



Searching for birds on the chapter's bird walk.

members how to properly identify and handle snakes and other reptiles. For our next event, the chapter took a sunset hike around the University of Illinois Arboretum to learn more about the wildlife found on campus. The last event in October was a general meeting with a presentation from a Postdoctoral student from the Illinois Natural History Survey, where members learned about snake ecology and how to get into wildlife research. Our first event in November was a bird walk through Busey Woods and members learned how to spot and identify birds. For our November general meeting, the chapter hosted a Ph.D student researching interactions between birds and invasive plants. Finally, members were taken out during October and November to set up, service, and take down camera traps for a mammal study with the Illinois Natural History Survey. Coming up, the chapter hopes to take members to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and to continue providing hands-on wildlife research training.

Bemidji State University

As always, the BSU student chapter has been very busy this Fall! Dr. Brian Hiller is back from his sabbatical in Australia and he and Dr. Elizabeth Rave has been joined by new Wildlife faculty member Dr. Jacob Haus, who will be co-advising with Dr. Hiller. The student chapter was awarded a nearly \$15,000 R3 grant (Recruit, Retain, & Reactivate) to purchase equipment and conduct training/classes in Introductory Waterfowl hunting and another in Introductory Archery Deer Hunting. Participants can check out bows and arrows for use in the school forest where the chapter placed tree stands. In addition to the grant, the chapter has been very actively gaining hands-on experience by traveling to Thief Lake WMA to learn waterfowl banding and they recently completed their eighth year of deer spotlight surveys for the City of Bemidji. The data collected are used as part of the archery season goal-setting process by the City Deer Committee. Now that hunting seasons are coming to a close, the group is gearing up for guest speakers including MNTWS President Tony Hewitt and more hands-on experience sampling bobcat carcasses with the MNDNR. The chapter is also now a member school in the Delta Waterfowl "Hunting University" program which encourages wildlife students to learn the basics of waterfowl hunting, gain experience using firearms, and eventually participate in a mentored hunting trip.



Photo credit: John Swarz, BSU photographer
BSU Student chapter members spotlighting deer during their annual City Deer Surveys around Bemidji, MN.

University of Wisconsin, Madison

We have had an incredibly engaging fall semester so far with the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at UW-Madison. We have been actively recruiting new members and maintaining solid bonds with previous members, resulting in a tight knit club that is actively looking for experiences to share. This semester we have had the opportunity to listen to two dynamic guest speakers at club meetings. We had the pleasure of listening to Dr. David Drake who spoke of urban wildlife mitigation and his ongoing research project, the Urban Canid Project. We also had Dr. Scott Walter of the Wisconsin DNR come speak to us about his ten steps to a fulfilling, successful career in wildlife. To complement our guest speakers, we have provided numerous events for club bonding and hands on experience to provide training/skills to our members. Most recently, the Wildlife Society took a late autumn hiking trip at Devil's Lake State Park, where we conquered ice, bluffs, and the chilly November elements. Our November has been quite busy, as we also provided a bird wing prep presentation here on campus with Dr. Pidgeon and took a field trip to Linwood Springs Research Station in Stevens Point. In October, we traveled to Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells to conduct a bat survey. We are looking forward to our wild game dinner at the end of the semester and a fun spring semester!

Central Michigan University

This fall we went on a weekend camping trip to Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and took in the beautiful fall colors on display. Members from our chapter also visited the Wildlife Recovery Association near CMU's campus, where birds of prey are rehabilitated for release back into the wild. Facts and anecdotes about raptor biology and behavior were shared with the group.



TRAININGS AND EVENTS

- Jan 8-Mar 25, 2020 **Climate Academy.** National Conservation Training Center. (Online) [FWS-ALC3193](#)
- Jan 13-17, 2020 **Data Wrangling with R.** National Conservation Training Center. [FWS-CSP1004](#).
- Jan 26-29, 2020 **80th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference.** Springfield, Illinois. <http://www.midwestfw.org/>
- Feb 1-Apr 15, 2020 **National Conservation Leadership Institute.** Applications Due.
<https://www.conservationleadership.org/explore-experience/application-process>
- Feb 10-14, 2020 **Introduction to Structured Decision Making.** National Conservation Training Center.
[FWS-ALC3171](#)
- Feb 4-6, 2020 **Missouri Natural Resources Conference.** Lake of the Ozarks. <http://www.mnrc.org>
- Feb 11-12, 2020 **Iowa Chapter of TWS Winter Meeting.** Ames, IA. www.iowatws.org
- Feb 18-20, 2020 **Minnesota Chapter Annual Meeting.** Willmar, Minnesota. <http://wildlife.org/minnesota>
- Mar 18-20, 2020 **Michigan State Chapter Meeting.** Bellaire, Michigan.
<https://michigantws.wixsite.com/mitws/annual-conference>
- Jun 15-19, 2020 **Recruit Retain Reactivate Training R3.** National Conservation Training Center. [FWS-OUT8072](#)
- Jul 25-Aug 17, 2020 **Sustaining South African Wildlife: Cash, Crime, Conflicts and Conservation (Study Abroad Adventure to South Africa).** North Central Section members, Mr. Jim Schneider and Dr. David Williams, will be leading an amazing study abroad adventure to South Africa – July 25-Aug. 17, 2020. Wildlife in Africa are under attack! Rhino and elephant populations are declining at a staggering rate, due to the illegal taking and trade in horns and ivory. Which species are next? What's being done to manage, protect and sustain these wildlife populations and the biodiversity of the region? This program, offered by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, will be based at the Southern African Wildlife College within the Kruger ecosystem. We'll explore the economic impacts that the illegal wildlife trade, as well as ecotourism plays, in wildlife conservation; how South Africa is dealing with the onslaught of poaching and other wildlife crimes; how local communities are working for or against protecting wildlife; discuss human-wildlife conflicts; examine the role of hunting and the hunting industry, culling and diseases have on wildlife conservation and protection; as well as compare the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to South Africa's model. Students will interact with government officials, land managers and game rangers. Students will spend 3 weeks in the great Kruger ecosystem, exploring these vital questions. A majority of the student's time during this program will involve hands-on learning activities, with significant time in field, on safari and observing wildlife first hand! **ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS** - Rhino capture/darting; elephant capture and collaring; bushwalks; night game drives; wildlife viewing and camping throughout Kruger National Park!!! **In 2018, we assisted with radio collaring 2 elephants, and tagged a beautiful bull rhino!!! – It was amazing!** The 2020 program fee is \$3975!!! (Program fee does not include airfare or 6 credits of MSU tuition). Feel free to contact Mr. Schneider (schne181@msu.edu) or Dr. Williams (dmwill@msu.edu) if you'd like to discuss the program in more detail. This is a once in a lifetime conservation adventure! **DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO JOIN US IN SOUTH AFRICA!!!! APPLY NOW!!**
Program Info: <https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/109144>
Program Flyer: <https://osa.isp.msu.edu/cache/profiles/100199.pdf>

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

We are accepting applications for Outstanding Wildlife Graduate Student Award. The North Central Section (NCS) of The Wildlife Society has a long history of working on student activities and we have developed an award recognizing outstanding students and potential future wildlife professionals. Graduate students who are pursuing a degree in wildlife ecology, wildlife management, zoology or a closely related discipline who plan to attend the Midwest Conference are encouraged to apply. Student finalists will be selected based on academic ability, scholarly achievement, work experience, letters of reference and extra-curricular activities in The Wildlife Society. See our [website](#) for more information.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award






We are accepting applications for the Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate Student Award. The North Central Section (NCS) of The Wildlife Society has a long history of working on student activities and we offer an award recognizing outstanding students and potential future wildlife professionals. Undergraduate students who are pursuing a degree in wildlife ecology, wildlife management, zoology or a closely related discipline who plan to attend the Midwest Conference are encouraged to apply. Student finalists will be selected based on academic ability, scholarly achievement, work experience, letters of reference and extra-curricular activities in The Wildlife Society. See our [website](#) for more information.

Professional Award of Merit

The Professional Award of Merit is bestowed by the North Central Section to Society members living in the North Central Section for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation. The award is restricted to living conservationists who are or have recently been active within the geographic boundaries of the Section. The award is given only in those years in which a truly deserving candidate is available. No more than one such award is made annually. Criteria for judging the professional accomplishments of nominees include: (1) contribution to knowledge (2) single outstanding acts, and/or (3) leadership over a period of several years in any area of wildlife work. Continuous nominations. More [here](#).

National Awards

The Wildlife Society's Awards Program annually honors professional excellence, recognizes outstanding achievement and highlights contributions to wildlife science and management. The first TWS award (Honorary Membership) was bestowed on Jay N. "Ding" Darling in 1938, just one year after the founding of TWS. Through the years many new awards have been established to recognize accomplishments in wildlife publications, management, science and professionalism. Special recognition by The Wildlife Society promotes the professional growth of our members, provides our membership with role models and strengthens the image of our membership in the eyes of their peers, employers, our leadership and society. We encourage members to recognize the contributions of their peers by participating in the nomination process. Detailed nomination instructions and criteria are published in December for the upcoming year. See our National [website](#) for more information.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF			
 <p>WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN <i>Integrating Wildlife Science and Management</i></p>		<p>The Wildlife Society seeks qualified applicants/nominees for the position of Editor-in-Chief for its peer-reviewed publication, Wildlife Society Bulletin. <i>Click here to learn more!</i></p>	
	<p>POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>The Wildlife Society is accepting applications and nominations for the Wildlife Society Bulletin's next Editor-in-Chief. <i>Click here to learn more!</i></p>	<p>Application Period Ends: January 3, 2020</p>	
		<p>4 ISSUES YEAR</p> <p>60k FULL-TEXT DOWNLOADS IN 2018</p>	

RESOURCES

North Central Section Membership Presentation, Poster and Business Cards

Your North Central Section (NCS) Membership Team completed development this winter of a poster, business card and PowerPoint presentation. The intent of these materials is to encourage membership and involvement in our Section by sharing the value to us as individuals, as a community, and for our future. Posters and business cards were shared with each state at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland for use at state chapter meetings, workshops, and other activities in the coming year. Images of both can be found on our NCS website home and membership pages. The presentation, "Building a Strong Wildlife Community within our NCS – We are the Cogs and Wheels, We are The Wildlife Society" is available to download from our website on the page. It was shared this winter and spring at some chapter meetings. All state chapter boards are encouraged to use and tailor it to meet their needs. It can be presented in 10-20 minutes, depending on how much explanation and how many examples the speaker would like to give. Notes for each slide explain their intent and how they can be adapted and updated. Please take a look at these communication tools and use them to increase awareness, understanding, appreciation, membership, involvement and support in our Section. Each one of us is truly a cog or wheel in our Section ecosystem, making our web stronger, and our mission more achievable. Our NCS Membership Team thanks you.



NSC Listserv (NCSTWS@list.msu.edu)

Send and receive relevant, appropriate messages that advance our work and mission! Job postings, Funding opportunities, Meeting, Training and Workshop announcements, Problem solving – ask questions, share equipment, etc., Conservation Affairs Network monthly newsletter & Action Alerts, Our NCS Spring and Fall Newsletter.

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION OFFICERS

Gary Roloff, President
 Olivia LeDee, President-Elect
 Jodie Provost, Past President
 Jon Cepek, Secretary
 Scott Meister, Treasurer
 Pat Lederle, Section Representative
 Kali Rush, Graduate Student Representative
 Lindsey Figg, Undergraduate Student Representative

Visit us online at www.wildlife.org/NCS/

STATE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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 Tony Hewitt, [Minnesota State Chapter](#)
 Adam Jones, [Missouri State Chapter](#)
 Grace Dietsch, [Ohio State Chapter](#)
 Scott Hyngstrom, [Wisconsin State Chapter](#)

Please send corrections to Olivia LeDee (olivia.e.ledee@gmail.com) and Mariah Simmons (MSimmons@wildlife.org). If you know of NCS members that have trouble accessing the electronic newsletter, notify Olivia for a hard copy.