



THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Wildlifers!

I'd like to kick off our Winter issue by introducing our new newsletter editor, Tara McElhinney. I want to first thank Tammy Cloutier for her outstanding work as editor for the past year and wish her luck on her exciting future endeavors!

Tara is a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she studied Natural Resources Conservation with a focus in Wildlife Ecology. There, she served as the events coordinator of the school's chapter of TWS, so she is thrilled to have found a way to continue being involved with TWS.

She has a passion for wildlife, science communication, sustainability, and connecting with people! Please reach out to her as she would love to hear any ideas, comments, questions, stories, or even just a hello. You can reach her at [taramcelhinney1@gmail.com](mailto:taramcelhinney1@gmail.com). She is looking forward to hearing from you and we look forward to seeing you all at NEAFWA in April in New Jersey.

Scott C. Williams, Ph. D.,  
 Certified Wildlife Biologist  
 President, Northeast Section



FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER:  
JAY MARTIN

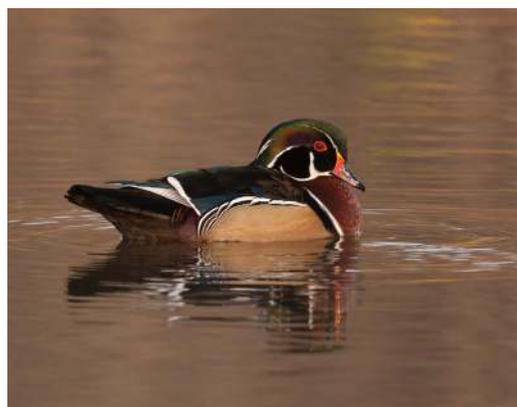


Our feature photographer for this issue is Jay Martin. Jay is currently a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service. He has decades of field experience all over the country including in Washington, Alaska, West Virginia and Virginia. First and foremost as a biologist, Jay is an observer. He examines subtle detail that others may not have the time to find. Jay says, "To experience the natural world first hand is astounding, but to have the ability to share it with others through photography is even better."

Outside of his profession as a wildlife biologist, Jay is also a nature photographer. A camera and particular lens gives Jay the ability to isolate his subjects in more visually pleasing ways. With variations of focal length, shutter speed, aperture, and angle of view, the possibilities for interesting photographs are endless. Jay strives to find the most intriguing scenes with the goal not just to capture beautiful images, but also to inspire others.

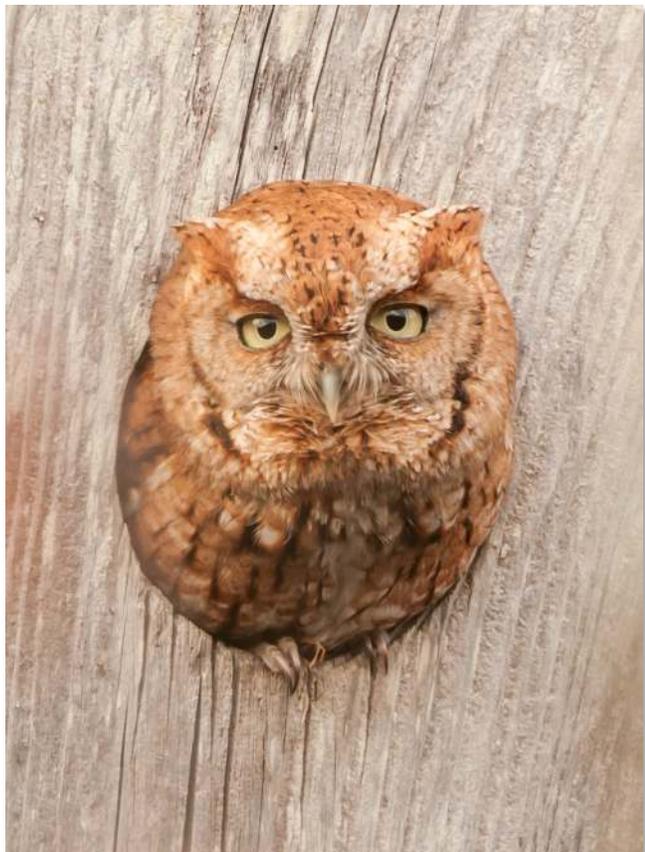
Check out a fascinating piece on nature photography written by Jay on pages 3 and 4!

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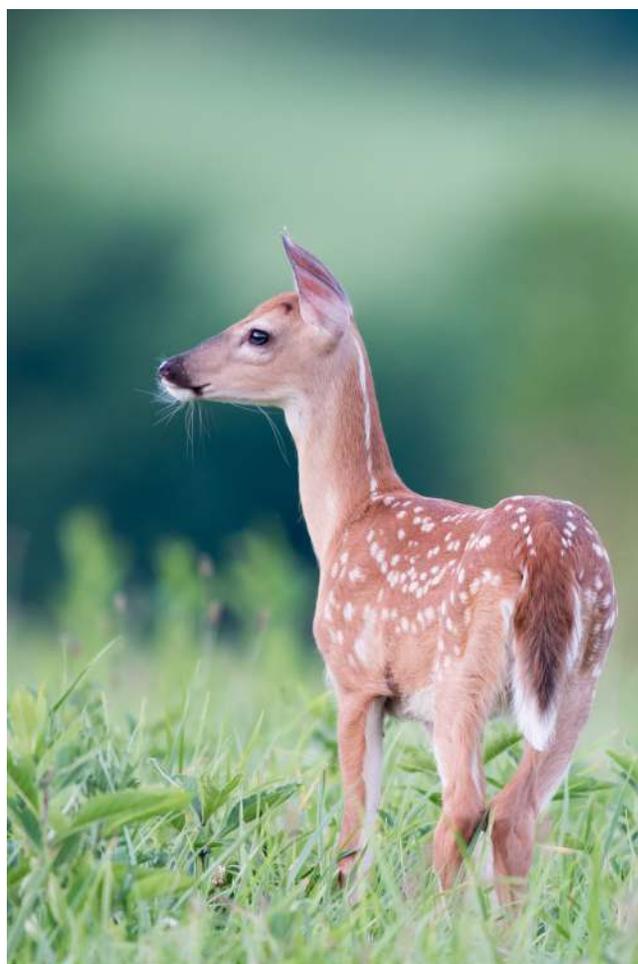
## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: A FUN WAY TO SPEND TIME OUTSIDE

*Text and Photography by Jay Martin*



The great thing about nature photography is the abundance of potential subjects at any time of year, even something as simple as a colorful leaf on a rock. You can always find something that is worth capturing with a camera, and the more time you spend slowing down and taking pictures, the better photographer you will become. At first, you may just snap shots of what catches your eye without giving it much thought, but as you become more involved with nature photography you will start looking even closer for potential subjects – noticing things that many people never see. You'll even become a better naturalist. Recording what you see is a wonderful way to help identify a particular plant or animal, and having spent some time with that species will allow you to remember it much better than just giving it a passing glance. (Continued...)

Whether you just like to hike with a camera in your hand or you specifically plan a photography trip, getting outside with a camera can be a fulfilling way to spend an hour or an entire day. It doesn't have to be an expensive or complicated hobby – even most cell phones have decent cameras and many of the top models have amazing capabilities. Of course, you can also buy very specialized equipment. Bird photography, for instance, usually requires a camera and telephoto lens combination to “bring” your subject closer.





Whatever subject you decide to record, spend plenty of time to get the image that you want. Don't just walk up, snap a shot and then walk off. Look at the subject from many angles. Watch how the background, the foreground and the lighting changes with every move. Don't be afraid of taking too many shots, especially now that we don't have to pay for film anymore. You can always delete or throw away the ones that you don't like. I've never regretted taking too many photos, but I have regretted not getting a better one.

Nature photography can enrich a normal hike or it can be a reason to get outside. Bottom line: grab a camera and go. I doubt that you'll regret it.



To see more of Jay's photography, check him out on Instagram!

 [@jaymartin.f2.8](https://www.instagram.com/jaymartin.f2.8)

Would you like to be featured or know someone who would like to be featured? Please email Tara at [taramcelhinney1@gmail.com](mailto:taramcelhinney1@gmail.com).

## NORTHEAST UPDATES

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS & COMMUNICATING TRAPPING

*By Gabby Zaldumbide*

The Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group of TWS has been quite busy this year hosting Trapping Matters Workshops (TMW) across the country. TMWs are professional development workshops offered to state and federal employees and trapping instructors to help improve agency professionals' ability to communicate about the role and benefits of regulated trapping in wildlife management. Since its inception, more than 5,000 wildlife professionals and students have attended workshops throughout the United States. The fundamental purpose of these professional development workshops is to advance awareness and communication skills related to regulated trapping among agency professionals and to increase understanding of Best Management Practices for regulated trapping in the United States. A companion training is a week-long "Fur School" that is also offered for wildlife professionals, technicians, and law enforcement officers.



TMW participants learn about live trapping BMPs at the USFWS Regional Headquarters in Hadley, MA.



Fur School participants learn about Best Management Practices for foothold traps.

Out of the 16 workshops and fur schools scheduled for 2019, four of them were held in the NE section of TWS. States that hosted workshops or fur schools include Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. In fact, the NE section of TWS provided funding for the workshop held in Hadley, MA and the Wildlife Society Student Chapter at Rutgers University provided lunch for the New Jersey workshops. Due to their success, northeastern states are looking forward to their next opportunities to host workshops. Workshops taking place in 2020 are currently being scheduled. So far, West Virginia has already scheduled a workshop for March 24<sup>th</sup> at Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park in Roanoke. Central Virginia is hosting a TMW in April. If you are interested in hosting a workshop or attending the one in West Virginia or Virginia, please reach out to Tom Decker at [thomas\\_decker@fws.gov](mailto:thomas_decker@fws.gov) or Gabby Zaldumbide, the TMW coordinator, at [gabriela.zaldumbide@western.edu](mailto:gabriela.zaldumbide@western.edu).

## NORTHEAST UPDATES

### 2020 WILDLIFE FIELD COURSE

May 17-30, 2020

**Calling all students!** Register now for the 2020 Wildlife Field Course offered by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society. This is a fantastic professional development opportunity where you'll get valuable hands-on experience including:

- Trapping of small mammals
- Telemetry
- Use of chemical immobilization equipment
- Map and compass use
- GPS use
- Wildlife education tools (e.g. Project WILD, Aquatic Project WILD)
- Habitat mapping, bird and herptile surveys
- Discussion sessions on careers and current wildlife conservation and management issue with professional biologists
- Identification of common trees and plants

This gives students a chance to connect with each other and practicing biologists from across the Region to start building a network. You can even get 3 or 6 undergraduate or graduate credits that can be transferred back to your home institution!

[Click here to learn more about the Northeast Section Student Field Course.](#)

Read on to see what two past participants have to say about their experience with the field course.

Two weeks was all it took to get a vital source of information, interact with other students, be part of a social network of professors and professionals within the wildlife community, be part of the change in how things are seen, and to be able to step out of the schooling process to have hands on experience that will provide memories for a lifetime. The trip alone was beautiful as well as the location of the Kehoe Camp site. The classes are long but there is so much information that can be taken into your current studies or your future job while also building a network with every instructor that has gone down the same path as yourself. Each day was a new learning experience from learning about radio telemetry, how to catch small mammals like chipmunks and peromyscus via Sherman traps, tagging species and recording data, learning how to set GPS points every 10 meters, furbearer trapping, hiking through Byrd Mountain, identifying different species based on look or sound, and most importantly working with others within groups. These two weeks of doing field research was a rewarding experience that everyone should invest in because it makes you understand more, builds your resume, and helps you to understand why you are important to the future of millions of species. Without this course, I would have never experienced such a vast network of individuals who are passionate about their work, had the hands on needed to understand more about certain studies, and so much more. This was such a great opportunity and should definitely be invested towards.

**-KRISTINA A. BURNETTE**

## NORTHEAST UPDATES

While wrapping up my last year as a Conservation and Wildlife Management major at Delaware Valley University, I decided to put my knowledge to the test by participating in The Wildlife Society's Northeast Section: Student Field Course. In this field course, students are taught the ins-and-outs of working in the field as wildlife biologists.

The most meaningful experience from this course was getting to meet the other professionals and aspiring professionals in my field. I was able to learn so much from both my peers and the experts who volunteered their time to speak with us and tell us about their work. We were able to have in-depth conversations with these experts and hear their tips and tricks for working in the field. Working side by side with my peers I was able to learn more in a two week period than I could have from any textbook.

Throughout our time at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp we were presented with the opportunity to improve our skills in small mammal trapping, recognizing bird calls, identifying herps, and conducting vegetation surveys. Along with this, we were able to work with the equipment necessary for radio telemetry, chemical immobilization, mapping, and tagging mammals and birds. Near the end of the course, we compiled all of our field data to present our findings relating to the species richness and abundance of the animals and vegetation present within our specific plots. This data was compared to previous year's collections in order to view any changes in populations and what may have caused these changes to occur.

By the end of the trip, I was left with an incredible support system from my peers, new connections with professionals in the wildlife field, and an unforgettable experience. I would like to give a huge thank you to Dr. John McDonald and Dr. William Healy for allowing students this incredible introduction into field work as wildlife biologists. I would also like to thank The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society for offering this wildlife field course to our up-and-coming professionals.

-LAUREN HELMS



## NORTHEAST UPDATES

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TWS FELLOWS!

#### DR. CAROL BOCETTI

Dr. Carol Bocetti is a Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences at California University of Pennsylvania. She has been involved with The Wildlife Society for 33 years, starting as an undergraduate in 1985 where she served as Vice President of her student chapter. Currently, she is an active member of TWS, the PA Chapter, and the Northeast Section.

What sets Dr. Bocetti apart from the rest is her commitment to leading and mentoring students. For the past 14 years she has been the Student Chapter Advisor at California University of PA. It is an extremely active chapter, regularly holding meetings, field trips, and fundraisers. She gives her students valuable experiences, like annually assisting with Delmarva fox squirrel research as well as bear check stations in Pennsylvania. Her chapter regularly goes to the Northeast Student Conclave and the TWS Annual Conference.

Dr. Bocetti has helped to organize the Conclave many times and has been a workshop presenter at many of these. She also served on the Arrangements Committee for the 2014 TWS Conference, organizing the Quiz Bowl. In 2018, she presented "Kirtland's Warbler Sings the Sweet Song of Success" as part of the plenary session as well as presenting at the workshop for student chapter leadership. Her phenomenal efforts and dedication to student involvement have led to her being twice named as TWS Student Chapter Advisor of the Year. It is clear that this dedication makes her a well deserved fellow!

#### KEN MACKENZIE

Ken MacKenzie is currently the Acting Director of Natural Resources for the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation. This title doesn't begin to describe the impact he has had on wildlife populations, young professionals, and The Wildlife Society.

Ken uses his passion for protecting and encouraging rare or uncommon species to protect water quality. His research on inland gulls has led to significant advances in reservoir management. As a strong advocate for active management, he has also been instrumental in the gradual recovery of the common loon in MA. Ken has been involved with the annual Quabbin controlled deer hunt since he began working for DCR and recently combined his knowledge of the hunt with his GIS and outreach skills to develop a new mobile ArcGIS online app that will help promote and excite hunters.

One nominator said, "I have always admired Ken's willingness to help and encourage young professionals... This connection to the next generation of wildlife biologists is one of his best characteristics." Ken has volunteered his time and expertise for all 10 years that the Northeast Section has run a two-week field course, teaching students valuable skills in radio telemetry. He makes lasting connections with students, often becoming a mentor that students can talk with, get advice from, job shadow, and look up to as a role model. He is always happy to share data or lead a field trip, committed to helping students and young wildlife professionals. Ken is a shining example of a dedicated and passionate TWS member!

## NORTHEAST UPDATES



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: TWS NORTHEAST SECTION AWARDS

HELP US HONOR THE WORK OF OUR FELLOW BIOLOGISTS—NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE OR STUDENT. NOMINATIONS ARE DUE **FEBRUARY 15**.

**THE JOHN PEARCE MEMORIAL AWARD**

**THE PF ENGLISH MEMORIAL AWARD**

**CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION**

[HTTPS://WILDLIFE.ORG/NE-SECTION/ABOUT/AWARDS](https://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/awards)

AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NEAFWA CONFERENCE

APRIL 19 – 22, LONG BRANCH, NJ

## STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

Interested in attending the 2020 NEAFWA Conference?

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce a new opportunity for wildlife students in the Northeast. We will be offering a student travel award of \$200 to a student attending the NEAFWA conference.

Who is eligible?

Eligible students are graduates or undergraduates in wildlife or a related field **who have had a paper or poster accepted for presentation at NEAFWA for the current year.**

How can I apply?

Applicants are to submit [the application](#), a cover letter that includes the importance of this paper or poster to wildlife management, their abstract, and a travel budget that includes the other sources of funding that will make travel to NEAFWA possible. (These may be grant or scholarship, student chapter funding, or personal).

All documents should be submitted as attachments to one email sent to [TWSNortheast@gmail.com](mailto:TWSNortheast@gmail.com).

## TWS NATIONAL UPDATES



**The Wildlife Society invites you to submit proposals for education and training sessions at the 2020 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky!**

The call is open now **through March 13, 2020**, and includes workshops, symposia, panel discussions, trainings and field trips. Proposals related to all aspects of wildlife ecology, management, policy, human dimensions and conservation are welcomed. The conference runs September 27– October 1, 2020.

### EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **Excellent Networking Opportunities:**

There are lots of TWS chapter and section meetings coming up. Keep an eye out for the date of your state chapter's meeting.

#### [New York Chapter of TWS Annual Meeting](#)

Date: Feb 27-28, 2020

Location: The Craftsman Inn and Suites in Fayetteville, New York

#### [Pennsylvania Chapter of TWS Conservation Education: A 2020 Vision for the Future](#)

Date: March 27-28, 2020

Location: Ramada Hotel & Conference Center in State College, PA

#### [Maryland-Delaware Chapter of TWS Spring 2020 Meeting](#)

Date: April 8-9, 2020

Location: Redden State Forest, Delaware

## WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST?

### Executive Board

President	Scott C. Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
President-Elect	Jacqueline L. Friar	jfriar@esf.edu
Immediate Past President	Michael Fishman	Michael.fishman@erm.com
Treasurer	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Secretary	Megan A. Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
NE Section Representative	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Graduate Student Representative	Laken Ganoe	gan5557@calu.edu
Undergraduate Student Representative	Colby Slezak	slezakc300@cobleskill.edu

### Audit Committee

Chair	Mitch Hartley	mitch_hartley@fws.gov
Member	Tom Decker	Thomas_decker@fws.gov
President	Scott Williams	Scott.williams@ct.gov

### Awards Committee

Member	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Member	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Member	Megan Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
Member	Emily (Just) Domoto	emjust@pa.gov

### Communications Committee

Newsletter Editor	Tara McElhinney	taramcelhinney1@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	Ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us
NE Representative to TWP	Scott Williams	Scott.williams@ct.gov

## WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST? CONTINUED

### Conservation Affairs Committee

Chair	Karen Stackpole	
Member (DE)	Emily Boyd	emily.boyd@state.de.us
Member (PA)	Reg Hoyt	reginald.hoyt@delval.edu
Member (ME)	Rodney Kelshaw	rodney.kelshaw@stantec.net
Student Member	Rene Tam	rctam@syr.edu
NJ Representative*	Lisa Clark	lisa.clark@dep.nj.gov
MD-DE Representative*	Carol Pollio	drpollio@comcast.net
NY Representative*		
WV Representative*	Jim Fregonara	Jim.m.fregonara@wv.gov

### Operations Committee

Chair	Tim Green	tgreen@bnl.gov
Member	Angela Fuller	angela.fuller@cornell.edu
Member	Samara Trusso	satrusso@pa.gov

### Student Affairs Committee

Chair	Val Titus	valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Student Development Working Group Rep.	Laken Ganoë	lsganoë11@gmail.com
Field Course Rep	Bill Healy	healybg@hotmail.com
Field Course Alternate	John McDonald	twsmdonald@gmail.com

### Workshop (ad hoc) Committee

Chair	Megan Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
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\*These individuals have not been formally appointed by the section, but are serving as the point of contact for their Chapter. Effort should be made to *confirm* 1 representative from each chapter.