

TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch

Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative – 2020

Andrea Orabona

Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree, Wildlife Biology major, Outdoor Recreation minor, CSU, graduated in 1983.
Master of Science Degree, Wildlife Biology major, University of Wyoming, graduated in 1991.

Present Position:

Nongame Bird Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, September 1992 to present.

Former Positions:

Black-footed ferret field technician with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Dean Biggins, supervisor) in 1984; field technician on various nongame projects and then a graduate student with UW Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Stan Anderson, supervisor) from 1985-1991.

Wildlife Society Activities:

TWS member since 1979.

Not currently certified.

Colorado State University Student Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, President-Elect, and President.

Wyoming Chapter COWCH Committee Chair (also others), Secretary, President-Elect, and President.

Central Mountains and Plains Section Member At-large, President-Elect, President, and Past-President.

Other Professional Affiliations:

Member of the Wyoming Loon Working Group, Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group, Central Flyway Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee, Wyoming Golden Eagle Working Group, Wyoming Bird Records Committee, Wyoming Partners in Flight, and Audubon Rockies (President, Red Desert Audubon Society).

Leadership Experience (professional and organizations, up to 5):

As the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) statewide Nongame Bird Biologist, my position includes management of all non-hunted avian species that occur in the state. In that capacity, I serve on 5 working groups, and periodically engage with and organize volunteers on various projects (e.g., Burrowing Owl trapping and satellite transmitter tagging project). In 2013, I completed the Leadership Development I course offered by my employer, with a group project focused on identifying additional funding opportunities for the WGFD. I currently serve as President of the Red Desert Audubon Society, which spans from Dubois to Evanston in western Wyoming; the Lander Tree Board; and the Northern Red Desert Board. I have served on the Lander Library Friends Association Board, and continue to facilitate their annual retreat. These professional and personal affiliations have taught me the value of working with a diversity of people who share common goals and glean the best ideas from various interests.

Principal Professional Interests (limit 15 words):

I strive to ensure that management and research decisions are based on robust science.

Views (limit 250 words):

My involvement with The Wildlife Society (TWS) began as an undergraduate at Colorado State University (CSU), thanks to several mentors who introduced me to our professional organization, and some of

whom I am still in contact with today. At CSU, I served on a few Student Chapter committees and as Secretary/Treasurer, President-Elect, and President of the Student Chapter. That positive experience transitioned to serving at the state level with the Wyoming Chapter of TWS as chair of several committees (including the Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage [COWCH] committee, of which I am still involved), At-large Board Member, Secretary, President-Elect, and President. From there, I learned the value of continuing to serve and remaining engaged at the Central Mountains and Plains Section level as an At-large Board Member, President-Elect, President, and immediate Past-President (a total commitment of 6 years). And in 2019, I was inducted as a TWS Fellow. With the experience and knowledge I have gained over my 34-year wildlife career, my next focus and passion is to continue serving the wildlife resource and our professional organization at the level of Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council. I envision a continued robust effort to ensure we promote and deliver science-based management and research decisions, and strive to include all who have the knowledge, passion, and skills to contribute to wildlife science. If elected, please know that I will be open to conversations in any form (e.g., cell phone, text, email, in-person) to ensure that I am your spokesperson for our Central Mountains and Plains Section.