



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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CMPS website:  
<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

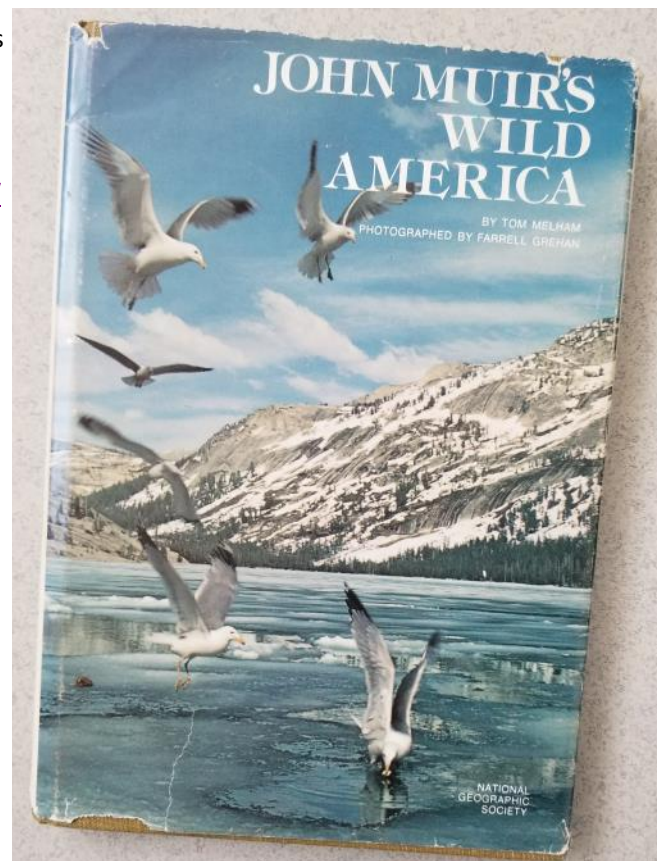
## Message from the President

Summer 2021 Volume 76

I recently returned from a vacation where my husband and I toured Yosemite National Park and other natural areas in northern California and Nevada. I had never been to Yosemite and have wanted to experience the majestic landscape since high school. As a 1976 sophomore, I ordered National Geographic's "John Muir's Wild America" and read it cover to cover. It was one of my first forays in underlining, marking, and writing in the margins of a book where something struck me as poignant, and thus, truly making the book my own. As an emerging young woman in the late 1970s, I didn't fit into the high school genre of my school nor did I have female environmental role models within reach. John Muir and his unapologetic love of nature, or at least the depiction I had of him, was what I wanted in my own female form. He, along with other historic figures like Thoreau, inspired me to find a career where a woman too could study the wilds, commune with nature, and direct her feisty demeanor for civil disobedience.

So, while in Yosemite, I sought a more recent book on John Muir but the NPS Visitor's Center was closed. Instead, I found on-line articles. I was anxious to continue my admiration for this man and his work which helped conserve from irretrievable extraction some of our greatest natural treasures. Oh my! I was enlightened as to recent viewpoints of Muir in certain sources. I had no idea of the discussions among the Sierra Club and others as to the history of the Club and select writings of John Muir. At issue were some of Muir's statements regarding a few encounters with non-whites and one white sheepherder, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Conduct your own research, please, but here are two sample articles: Finn, C. July 20, 2020. <https://www.californiasun.co/stories/john-muir-and-race-a-biographer-argues-for-nuanced-view-of-the-environmentalist/> and an insightful response by Worster, D.E., July 30, 2020. <https://www.californiasun.co/stories/john-muir-biographer-he-was-no-white-supremacist/>.

I returned from vacation to wade through bushels of emails and serendipitously came across an article regarding the namesakes of many bird species. I read about the Audubon Society and others pertaining to a selection of birds' names. For example, Jameson's Firefinch is named after a British naturalist who was



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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## President's Message (continued)

allegedly culpable of insidious inhumane acts in the late 1880s. Again, conduct your own research as I haven't exercised an exhaustive effort. (Fears, D. June 3, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2021/bird-names-racism-audubon/>)

My point is that I am stunned by the information in these few articles and I would imagine I am not alone. In some respects, I feel like I am still that young woman in 1976 who was uninformed about environmental matters because of limited resources. But that young woman continued to become educated and, like her, I am on a mission to become wide awake. I am fully aware that I don't know what I don't know about the unfortunate actions by some people who formed conservation and environmental pathways. Those of us in natural resources have many atrocities (both historic and current) to learn from, if we so choose. I am hopeful that today's natural resource discussions will continue to promote DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and respect for all people, including indigenous, everywhere we gather, such as among TWS Chapters, Sections, and working groups. Why? Because like nature, we are abundantly more evolved and flexible when we operate with an array of human viewpoints, ideas, and approaches to studying, communing with, and managing natural resources.

- Shelly Deisch, CMPS President

## Section Business

**Call for Nominations for CMPS Awards—DEADLINE EXTENSION to July 9**

# Great news!

## There's still time to nominate someone for a 2021 CMPS Award

- The Professional Award
- The Citizen Conservation Achievement Award
- The Executive Group Achievement Award

New nomination deadline: **Friday July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Please see CMPS website for more info: <https://wildlife.org/cmp/awards/>

Email nominations to: [sferrero.tws@gmail.com](mailto:sferrero.tws@gmail.com)

## **Section Business**

### **CMPS Nominations to the Executive Board**

CMPS asks you to vote for several positions on the Executive Board. As a reminder, if you pay dues to a state chapter, you are a CMPS member automatically and eligible to vote in our elections! ***Please vote at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YY8MXFS> by July 31, 2021!***

### **Nomination for Board Member-At-Large, Carl Bowden**

Carl received his Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation Biology and Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from Kansas State University. During his time at Kansas State, he served as the Vice President of Wildlife and President for his chapter of The Wildlife Society helping to lead the chapter to more than 35% growth in the year of 2014-2015. He has proved to be a standout leader within organizations involving government, natural resource conservation, leadership development, and service groups in his community. Carl's experience ranges from working with large carnivores involving the Teton Cougar Project in Jackson, WY, working alongside wildcat conservation organizations such as Panthera and Craighead Beringia South. He has also worked with The Prusten Project, a project focused on the vocal communication of tigers within Zoo's across the United States. Other organizations he has helped serve include the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, The Land Institute, and The Zambian Carnivore Programme. Taking his passion and experience of leading conservation organizations forward, Carl has since started a leadership development company to assist in pushing conservation forward in its leadership. He is a John Maxwell Team certified coach, trainer, and speaker and is continuing his education with a Master of Business Administration from Wichita State University to further help his clients enhance their goals and aspirations in conservation and various other professions. Carl currently resides in Wichita, KS where he coaches and consults businesses, community groups, and individuals as the Founder of Exemplify.





## Section Business (continued)

### **CMPS Nominations to the Executive Board (continued)**

#### **Nomination for Board Member-At-Large, Peyton Burt**

Since I was a kid, I have always had a passion for the outdoors whether it be hunting, fishing, camping or viewing wildlife and wanting to learn more. Throughout college, I worked and volunteered with a wide variety of agencies to learn applied skills not taught in classes. I graduated in 2015 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with my BS in Fisheries and Wildlife with an emphasis in wildlife ecology and management. I was a part of the Wildlife Club holding multiple offices Public Relations, Treasurer and then Vice President. I attended multiple Nebraska Wildlife Society Meetings and Western Region Conclaves for the wildlife society.

My first field job was working with an endangered species piping plover at Nebraska's largest reservoir Lake McConaughy undertaking nest observations and conducting surveys with the public for 3 summers. The next chapter in my book took me around the state of Nebraska doing Hunter surveys on public land in SW, SE, and NW Nebraska for Nebraska Fish and Wildlife Research Cooperative, in which my hunting experiences and knowledge helped me connect with hunters for 3 years. I worked with Swift Fox setting up camera traps using trail cameras to detect populations throughout the North and South Panhandle of Nebraska. To expand my skills, I took my first job with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with the Fisheries Division working out of Calamus Fish Hatchery, raising and stocking fish, collecting fish population data, and doing human dimension surveys with lake recreationists to avoid spreading Aquatic Invasive Species in North Central Nebraska. Adding another chapter, I returned to Southwest Nebraska doing Ring-Necked Pheasant Technician work triangulating daily locations to determine how hunting pressure affected home range size on private and public CRP. Then I accepted another Conservation Technician job with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission working for the Partners Section signing up private CRP land into public access (Open Fields and Waters) in nine SW counties that touched Colorado and Kansas borders. I helped landowners improve their CRP. As a team, I helped shatter the record for the most amount of land enrolled into public access during 2018 in the state of Nebraska. Throughout my career, I have found my passions are working with landowners, improving habitat, and working with pheasants.

I took a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II job out of Burlington, Colorado working for Pheasants Forever for over 2 years now. I get to work with private landowners to improve wildlife habitat on the Eastern plains of Colorado. I work with multiple agencies partners working with state and federal agencies focusing on upland birds and big game habitat improvement. The projects I get to work on include Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) we assist implementing a high diversity seeding that improves pollinator habitat, upland game, and big game is Corners for Conservation. Corners for conservation we retire pivot corners around irrigation and puts the habitat into public access for hunting. Along with Walk in Access hunting we also use a similar mix to Corners for Conservation we focus on playas to improve upland bird habitat and migrating waterfowl stopping in. We work out of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) we assist with contracting of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and working with private landowners with technical assistance on their plantings. We check fields and look at species composition and inform landowners the best options for Mid Contract Management during the 10-year contracts. We assist anyone who wants assistance on wildlife habitat improvement projects.



## **Section Business (continued)**

### **CMPS Nominations to the Executive Board (continued)**

#### **Nomination for Board Member-At-Large, Heidi Plank**

I am a wildlife biologist for the Grand Valley Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Gunnison and Uncompaghre National Forests. Prior to working for the Forest, I worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Grand Junction as their field office biologist for 13 years. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1996, when I was still an undergraduate at the University of California Davis, where I studied Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology and served as treasurer of the student chapter of the wildlife society. I graduated from UC Davis in 1997 and worked on various field crews in Oregon, Alaska, Utah, and California before pursuing a masters degree in Wildlife Ecology at Utah State University. After graduating from USU in 2002 I worked on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota followed by the Tonto Basin Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. Throughout this time I have been a member of the wildlife society at a national and local level and have always found The Wildlife Society to be an important part of keeping connected and up to date with Wildlife Science and Policy issues. I have attended many state, regional and national conferences over the years and always leave with ideas to better my own work. I would like to volunteer as a member at large to give back to the Wildlife Society and the community of biologists that supports it.



My family and I have lived in Western Colorado since 2007, I have three dogs and two kids, and have been a girl scout and boy scout leader for many years. I enjoy spending my free time floating the river, hiking, or working in my garden.

#### **Nomination for Board Member-At-Large, Rachel Shively**

Originally from the Midwest, Rachel Shively earned an M.S. in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She completed initiatives involving population management of waterfowl in Selawik and Yukon Flats NWRs, nutrition and physiology of caribou at the Large Animal Research Station, and the diet, habitat, and range of bats in Alaska. Rachel then worked as a lab manager for the Boone and Crockett Chair in Wildlife Conservation and Policy at Texas A&M University. There she collaborated on many projects while overseeing studies on moose summer food intake limitations, bat activity in rural and urban neighborhoods of Texas, and the application of computer vision to deer and goat diet analysis. Last year, she started her PhD at Kansas State University in the Parks Management Conservation lab where she is studying the impacts of outdoor recreation on mammal populations in protected areas. Rachel recognizes the high value The Wildlife Society provides to its members and would like to give back the Central Mountains and Plains Section by assisting with any administrative duties as a Board Member At-large.



## Section Business (continued)

### **CMPS Nominations to the Executive Board (continued)**

#### **Nomination for President-Elect, Stephanie Ferrero**

Thank you for considering me for President-Elect of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society. The CMPS President-Elect assists the Section President and leads the Mission & Strategic Plan Review Committee. Our Section of The Wildlife Society has changed significantly since it was established over 60 years ago. I want to see CMPS keep growing toward our mission and objectives. Our mission to represent and promote regional science across spatial scales requires everyone working together as a strong, vibrant network of active wildlife professionals, who promote ethical wildlife-ecosystem management and intentionally welcome all people everywhere to join us on this mission.

It has been an honor serving our Section as Vice-President since 2018. As an At-Large Executive Board Member for CMPS from 2016-2017, I worked with the Executive Board to strengthen CMPS, connect with members from across our section, and encourage relationships between chapters. From 2012 -2015, I served as a Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society At-Large Board Member.

During this time, I became an Associate Wildlife Biologist®, then a Certified Wildlife Biologist®. In 2013, I completed The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute, which forever changed me through inspirational interaction with outstanding TWS leaders, staff, and classmates.

My background includes diverse training and work in natural resources. I obtained my Bachelors degree in Biology from Azusa Pacific University, California. To gain experience, I helped conduct prairie dog research at Colorado State University, among other field technician jobs. I also sought out independent field courses through Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in Washington State and Michigan. I earned my Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying forest associations of flying squirrels. Returning to my roots, I worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a combined big game and conservation wildlife biologist. After that adventure, I co-directed research for USFWS on furbearer species at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas and now teach Environmental Science lectures and labs at Johnson County Community College.

What motivates me is a profound appreciation and curiosity of wildlife. Born and raised in the mountains, I developed a love for the outdoors and wildlife during family time spent hiking, biking, rafting, skiing, camping, fishing, and hunting. I love exploring the woods and prairies with my husband, our 2 daughters, and our 3 pup dogs. It would be a pleasure to assist as CMPS President-Elect for the upcoming year, then serve as CMPS President and later as Past-President. If selected for President-Elect, my primary objectives while assisting our CMPS President would be:

- Growing the [Mission and Strategic Plan](#) to meet the current and anticipated needs of our Section under the counsel of our CMPS President and Executive Board,
- Developing specific goals / desired outcomes for my two-year term as CMPS President, and
- Meeting more of our members to hear your stories and thoughts.

I would really enjoy serving CMPS in this new way, while continuing to help encourage unity among the chapters, collaboration with neighboring sections, and inclusive CMPS membership to support effective wildlife conservation for our Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.





## Section Business (continued)

### **Greg Schenbeck Receives TWS Distinguished Service Award**

Greg Schenbeck was nominated as the CMPS candidate for TWS's Distinguished Service Award for 2021. Schenbeck has been a member of TWS since 1972 (nearly 50 years!) and continues to be an active member even in his career retirement. Schenbeck has been involved in CMPS, the Nebraska Chapter, South Dakota Chapter, and Rangeland and Wildlife Working Group of TWS. Schenbeck became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 1979. Schenbeck was recognized with the CMPS Professional Conservation Award in 2013, and the Nebraska Chapter Wildlife Professional of the Year in 1996.

Schenbeck graduated from Nebraska Western College with an Associate in Arts degree, followed by Colorado State University where he received his B.S. degree and M.S. degree. Schenbeck began his professional career with the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a wildlife technician and conservation officer trainee. Shortly after graduating with his M.S. degree, Schenbeck worked for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a field supervisor for several wildlife management areas. He worked as a wildlife management biologist for BLM in Nevada, and a district wildlife management biologist for the USFS in South Dakota. Schenbeck moved on as the Northern Great Plains Wildlife Coordinator in the USFS in Nebraska to work on revising Land and Resource Management Plans for eight national grasslands and two national forests. Schenbeck also worked as a Fish and Wildlife Program Manager for the USFS in Nebraska for three national grasslands and two national forests totaling 1.1 million acres, and annual budgets between \$350,000 and \$600,000. Schenbeck additionally was an adjunct faculty at Chadron State College. Schenbeck finished his career as a wildlife biologist and area manager for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Wildlife Division's Pine Ridge field office.

In the nomination packet submitted by Shelly Deisch, Bill Vodehnal, Daniel Uresk, and Rick Baydack, Schenbeck is admired as dedicated, involved, and knowledgeable. Throughout his career, Schenbeck worked on habitat management and policy that protected and improved wildlife habitat (such as monitoring

and policies for livestock grazing to leave residual vegetation for sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens). Schenbeck incorporated science-based guidance for managing prairie grouse species into management plans for grasslands and national forests.

Schenbeck has been involved in the South Dakota TWS's South Dakota Public Lands Committee, including environmental review of governmental proposed actions, and science-supported NEPA responses. In addition, he has edited TWS draft position statements and other materials related to public lands on a national TWS scale. Schenbeck also took the lead in working with the Rangeland and Wildlife Working Group and the TWS Policy Director to address BLM and USFS proposed changes to rangeland management and public land livestock grazing, which had potential detrimental impacts to prairie and sagebrush obligates.



Aleshia Rummel



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## Section Business (continued)

### 2021 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant

**DEADLINE TO BE DETERMINED IN AUGUST 2021**

#### The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Virtual Format November 1 – 5, 2021

Student members of The Wildlife Society (TWS) are our future professionals. To foster our upcoming colleagues, the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) offers travel grant opportunities to defray costs of the 2021 TWS Annual Conference.

**Registration costs have been reduced to \$75 prior to July 31, 2021 and \$100 after the deadline.**

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals, students, and supporters in North America and CMPS wants to offer limited grants to support student learning and networking.

During the TWS virtual conference, attendees learn about the latest advances in wildlife research, management and education through a wide variety of symposia, contributed papers, workshops. <https://wildlife.org/2021-conference/>.

Students have a separate forum with working groups, poster sessions, resume review, and how to navigate the path to professional success. Possible trainings are still being explored so keep a close watch on this website! <https://twconference.org/schedule/>.

#### Grant Application Process

To reflect the uniqueness of a virtual conference, CMPS has restructured its normal grant-awarding process. Application criteria will soon be reflected on our website. <https://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>

Grant criteria include students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate natural resource program and a member of CMPS (if you are a member of a state student chapter or state chapter within SD, ND, KS, NE, CO, UT or WY, you are automatically a CMPS member). Preference will be given to students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, a local TWS Chapter, or a recognized TWS student Chapter.

Grant recipients ***must be presenting or offering a poster session at the virtual 2021 Conference***. And lastly, CMPS will require proof of conference registration and that you participated in a workshop of your choice.

CMPS is offering individuals \$175 grants to cover registration (\$100 late registration fee) and one workshop/training event (\$75). **No group grants will be awarded in 2021.**

**Information to submit applications electronically will be announced August, 2021**



## TWS Business

### Summer Reading – Top Journal Downloads of 2020

For over 80 years, The Wildlife Society has helped develop, contextualize, and advance the scientific foundation of wildlife management through publication of peer-reviewed studies in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (1937), *Wildlife Monographs* (1958), and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (1973). As a leading resource for wildlife managers in the field and a central component of the Society's mission, regularly assessing engagement with TWS journal content helps provide valuable insights about the future of wildlife management in North America and beyond.

Looking at article download trends provides a quick and easy way to show active engagement and use of journal content over time and can be analyzed per article or journal title. In 2020, downloads of articles published in TWS journals increased by 15% compared to 2019. That marks the fifth consecutive year of increasing downloads.

**Wondering what your fellow wildlifers are reading?** The table below includes the top 15 downloaded papers published in TWS Journals in 2020 as of March 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member benefit, simply log into [Your Member-ship](#) and go to the "Publications" tab.

For more information on journal publishing metrics in the digital age and their relevance to TWS, check out the article **A Measure of Influence**, which appears on pages 39-43 of the May/June 2020 issue of *The Wildlife Professional*.

**Table. Top 15 papers published in TWS Journals in 2020 based on the number of downloads as of March 2021.**

Title / Author(s) / Journal
<p><b><a href="#">Assessing Nutritional Condition of Mule Deer Using a Photographic Index</a></b> Smiley, R.A., Rittenhouse, C.D., Mong, T.W. and Monteith, K.L. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States</a></b> (open access) White, H.B., Batcheller, G.R., Boggess, E.K., Brown, C.L., Butfiloski, J.W., Decker, T.A., Erb, J.D., Fall, M.W., Hamilton, D.A., Hiller, T.L., Hubert, G.F., Jr., Lovallo, M.J., Olson, J.F. and Roberts, N.M. <i>Wildlife Monographs</i></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities</a></b> (open access) Smallwood, K.S. and Bell, D.A. <i>The Journal of Wildlife Management</i></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Dogs Detect Larger Wind Energy Effects on Bats and Birds</a></b> (open access) Smallwood, K.S., Bell, D.A. and Standish, S. <i>The Journal of Wildlife Management</i></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Anthropogenic Disturbance and Population Viability of Woodland Caribou in Ontario</a></b> (open access) Fryxell, J.M., Avgar, T., Liu, B., Baker, J.A., Rodgers, A.R., Shuter, J., Thompson, I.D., Reid, D.E.B., Kittle, A.M., Mosser, A., Newmaster, S.G., Nudds, T.D., Street, G.M., Brown, G.S. and Patterson, B. <i>The Journal of Wildlife Management</i></p>
<p><b><a href="#">Wolverine Occupancy, Spatial Distribution, and Monitoring Design</a></b> (open access) Lukacs, P.M., Evans Mack, D., Inman, R., Gude, J.A., Ivan, J.S., Lanka, R.P., Lewis, J.C., Long, R.A., Sallabanks, R., Walker, Z., Courville, S., Jackson, S., Kahn, R., Schwartz, M.K., Torbit, S.C., Waller, J.S. and Carroll, K. <i>The Journal of Wildlife Management</i></p>

## TWS Business

### Summer Reading – Top Journal Downloads of 2020 (continued)

**Ratcheting up Rigor in Wildlife Management Decision Making** (open access)

Fuller, A.K., Decker, D.J., Schiavone, M.V. and Forstchen, A.B.  
*Wildlife Society Bulletin*

**Boreal Caribou Can Coexist with Natural but Not Industrial Disturbances** (open access)

Stewart, F.E.C., Nowak, J.J., Micheletti, T., McIntire, E.J.B., Schmiegelow, F.K.A. and Cumming, S.G.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Are Sage-Grouse Fine-Scale Specialists or Shrub-Steppe Generalists?** (open access)

Smith, J.T., Allred, B.W., Boyd, C.S., Carlson, J.C., Davies, K.W., Hagen, C.A., Naugle, D.E., Olsen, A.C. and Tack, J.D.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Preparing Wildlife for Climate Change: How Far Have We Come?** (free to read)

LeDee, O.E., Handler, S.D., Hoving, C.L., Swanston, C.W. and Zuckerberg, B.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Computational Reproducibility in The Wildlife Society's Flagship Journals** (open access)

Archmiller, A.A., Johnson, A.D., Nolan, J., Edwards, M., Elliott, L.H., Ferguson, J.M., Iannarilli, F., Vélez, J., Vitense, K., Johnson, D.H. and Fieberg, J.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Identifying Birds' Collision Risk with Wind Turbines Using a Multidimensional Utilization Distribution Method** (open access)

Khosravifard, S., Skidmore, A.K., Naimi, B., Venus, V., Muñoz, A.R. and Toxopeus, A.G.  
*Wildlife Society Bulletin*

**Pandemics and the Need for Automated Systems for Biodiversity Monitoring** (free to read)

Sugai, L.S.M.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Widespread Lead Exposure in Golden Eagles Captured in Montana** (open access)

Domenech, R., Shreading, A., Ramsey, P. and McTee, M.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*

**Overabundance of Black-Tailed Deer in Urbanized Coastal California**

Furnas, B.J., Landers, R.H., Paiste, R.G. and Sacks, B.N.  
*The Journal of Wildlife Management*



## **TWS Business**

### **TWS member's video explores why wildlife matters**

By Dana Kobilinsky

See the short film at <https://wildlife.org/tws-members-video-explores-why-wildlife-matters/>

Why does wildlife matter? The answer to that question is inherent in the work that wildlife professionals do, but they don't often have to put it into words.

So with video camera in hand, University of Manitoba graduate student Emily Thoroski asked them. As part of an undergraduate course taught by TWS Past President Rick Baydack, she initiated a video project, which ended up becoming her master's thesis. She was inspired by the idea for her project from Baydack's theme at the 2015 annual TWS conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and she ran with it.

"A lot of people don't think about this question," Thoroski said. "They do the research, and they're passionate about it, but people rarely talk about why wildlife matter."

Thoroski received an undergraduate research award from the University of Manitoba, which allowed her to be mentored by Rick Baydack and Erin McCance, both professors at the university, in the summer of 2018. "They both have become incredible mentors to me and continue to inspire me to move forward," she said.

She received funding from the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources at the university to travel to the 2018 TWS conference in Cleveland, where she interviewed 13 wildlife professionals and three students about why wildlife matter to them. The following March, she visited the Alberta Chapter and Canadian Section joint conference in Canmore, where she conducted six more interviews.

From these, she created a 27-minute long thesis and was inspired to do more. "I wanted to use music and



TWS member Emily Thoroski shoots video at Yellowstone National Park. Credit: Courtesy Emily Thoroski.



## TWS Business

### TWS member's video explores why wildlife matters (continued)

video to get the public more involved," she said, so she wrote and performed the song "We Decide," which is featured in her video.

She ended up interviewing TWS past presidents, including Wini Kessler, John McDonald, Gary Potts and W. Dan Svedarsky and other leaders. "Wini Kessler is my role model," she said.

At last year's TWS conference in Reno, Thoroski premiered a shortened version of her video. "I sent out an email to all my interviewees, saying I'm presenting at this time, please come by. And they were there supporting me," she said. "It was like a dream."

A few themes emerged from their answers, Thoroski said. Some shared that wildlife served as a barometer for healthy ecosystems. Some said it connected them with family and friends. "I want wildlife to be here for my granddaughter and for the future generations," said Harriet Allen, a past TWS council member.

But Thoroski was also surprised by some of the answers to her other questions. When she asked interviewees if they have hope for wildlife, some of them paused before answering. "Most of them were realistic in stating that they do have hope, but it is going to take a lot of work, a lot of dedicated people, and most importantly, better awareness to the general public," she said.

Said Kessler: "People are only going to take action for the things they know about and care about. We all have a role in spreading the knowledge that we have."

But the best part of the project was getting to meet and talk with members. "I think that's what The Wildlife Society is about — supporting each other and creating friendships," she said.

While interviewing wildlife professionals, Thoroski also had time to reflect on why wildlife matter to her.

"I have to stand up and speak for wildlife because they cannot speak for themselves," she said. "I try to creatively find ways to get the public involved in wildlife conservation, because I know that it is absolutely critical for humans moving forward as a species on this planet. Most importantly, we should protect and conserve this natural world and the species within it, not because we have to but because we want to."



TWS member Emily Thoroski appears with many of the TWS leaders she interviewed at the TWS conference in Reno where she premiered her video, "Why Do Wildlife Matter?"

## Other News of Note

### *Fostering Behavior Change Minute*

If your work involves encouraging the general public to engage in wildlife and natural resources issues, consider subscribing to Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr's free weekly newsletter, the Fostering Behavior Change Minute. Doug is the founder of community-based social marketing and has written and spoken extensively on how to deliver effective programs to foster behavior change. Nearly 20,000 global subscribers rely on the Fostering Behavior Change Minute to provide them with information that they can use to deliver more effective behavior change programs. Here is the link to sign up: <https://cbsm.ck.page>.

### **Fostering Sustainable and Healthy Behavior Workshops**

Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr delivers community-based social marketing trainings (featured at the Colorado Chapter's annual meeting recently). These workshops will be of particular interest to agencies working to promote waste reduction, energy and water efficiency, conservation, sustainable food consumption, the control of invasive species, modal transportation changes and other sustainable actions. These sessions will also be of interest to organizations promoting health and safety (e.g., hand washing, social distancing, active lifestyles, immunization, cancer prevention and screening, blood donations, earthquake and fire safety, workplace safety, etc.). Community-based social marketing is a unique approach to fostering both environment and health related behavioral changes and is now being utilized globally.

### **About the Speaker**

For over three decades Dr. McKenzie-Mohr has been working to incorporate scientific knowledge on behavior change into the design and delivery of community programs. He is the founder of community-based social marketing and the author of three books on the topic. One of these books has been recommended by Time Magazine and become requisite reading for those who deliver programs to protect the environment, promote public health and prevent injuries. His work has been featured in the New York Times and he is the recipient of the American Psychological Association's inaugural award for innovation in environmental psychology and the World Social Marketing conference's inaugural award for contributions to the field of social marketing. He has delivered workshops internationally for over 75,000 program managers.



Aleshia Rummel

## **TWS Council Report**

Greetings and happy summer, everyone! As your new Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative to The Wildlife Society Council, these past 10 months have been unusual in light of the pandemic, but rewarding nonetheless. TWS President Carol Chambers has kept Council engaged remotely, and my learning curve about Council workings and deliberations continues to skyrocket!

Here are some of the latest happenings and updates from The Wildlife Society – our professional scientific and educational organization.

### ***Annual Conference***

TWS Council made the decision in late 2020 to plan for another remote Annual Conference due to uncertainties about the COVID-19 pandemic. TWS Staff works incredibly hard to orchestrate all the conference components, and switching from in person to remote mid-planning is challenging for staff and costly to the Society in the form of non-refundable deposits. TWS staff is actively recruiting sponsors for the conference. Please plan to attend and engage with others in our profession remotely!

### ***Membership***

As of April 2021, TWS has 11,233 paid members (a 3.5% increase from April 2020) and 639 Give Back members for a total count of 11,862 members!

### ***Bylaws***

The extremely hardworking Bylaws Subcommittee submitted proposed changes to TWS Council, those changes were approved, and bylaws have been sent to TWS members for a vote to approve the changes. If you haven't already done so, please check your email for a link to vote!

### ***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)***

Jamila Blake, TWS Professional Development Manager, announced recently that the DEI Vision document has been published on [wildlife.org](https://wildlife.org). This document has been approved by TWS Council. An announcement can be found on the homepage, and a direct link to the document can be found on the DEI page. Web article: <https://wildlife.org/tws-approves-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-vision-document/>. DEI page: <https://wildlife.org/dei/>. DEI Vision: <https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20210602-DEI-Vision-FINAL-1.pdf>. Great work, everyone!

### ***Position Statements***

This Subcommittee met remotely several times and recently updated two Position Statements—Invasive and Feral Species, and Energy Development and Wildlife—with input from several TWS Working Groups. TWS Council approved both updated Position Statements during our June meeting. This Subcommittee is currently working on two new Position Statements—Wildland Fire, and Categorical Exclusions.

I hope to virtually see many of you at our 2021 Annual Conference. Meanwhile, enjoy the summer and your exciting field work!

Thanks for all you do for our natural resources – Andrea







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## Upcoming Events

### **WAFWA Deer and Elk Workshop**

Virtual (hosted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

August 3—5, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/deer-and-elk-workshop/>

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### **WAFWA 31st Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop**

Virtual

June 21—24, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: [https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage\\_and\\_columbian\\_sharp-tailed\\_grouse/](https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage_and_columbian_sharp-tailed_grouse/)

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### **American Ornithological Society (AOS) and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC) Meeting**

Virtual

August 9—14, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>

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### **Wildlife Disease Association and European Wildlife Disease Association Joint Conference**

Cuenca, Spain

August 31-September 2, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlivedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx>

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### **The Wildlife Society's 28th Annual Conference**

Virtual

November 1—5, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://twconference.org/>

REGISTRATION: Register BEFORE JULY 31 for early bird discount!

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### **WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop**

Hood River, Oregon

April 2022

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus, Hood River, Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/mountain-lion-workshop/>

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