

# TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch Central Mountain and Plains Representative - 2023

## Andrea C. Orabona

### Education

- 1983 Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology, Minor in Outdoor Recreation, Colorado State University (CSU).
- 1991 Master of Science in Zoology with a Wildlife Conservation and Management concentration, University of Wyoming (UW).

### Present Position

Retired

### Former Positions

- 1992-2022 Nongame Bird Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Bob Oakleaf and Zack Walker, supervisors).
- 1985-1991 Field technician on various nongame projects and then a graduate student with UW Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Stan Anderson, supervisor).
- 1984 Black-footed ferret field technician with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Dean Biggins, supervisor).

### The Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1979

- CSU Student Chapter: Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, Treasurer, President.
- WY Chapter of TWS:
  - Secretary, President-Elect, and President.
  - Committees – DEI, Legislative Affairs, Newsletter Editor, Information and Education (Chair), COWCH (Chair), Nominations (Chair), and Resolutions and Position Statements (Chair).
- Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS)
  - President-Elect, President
- The Wildlife Society (TWS)
  - Fellow, 2019.
  - CMPS Voting District Representative to TWS Council (2020-2023).

### Other Professional Affiliations

- Emeritus affiliation with the Greater Yellowstone Common Loon Working Group, Wyoming Golden Eagle Working Group, Burrowing Owl Migration Project, and the Central Flyway Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee.
- Current President of the Red Desert Audubon Society.

### Leadership Experience:

I recently retired from a 30+-year career as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) statewide Nongame Bird Biologist, where my work included management of all non-hunted avian species that occur in the state. In that capacity, I served on 5 working groups, and periodically engaged with and organized volunteers on various projects (e.g., a 13-year MAPS bird banding station; a multi-year

Burrowing Owl trapping and satellite transmitter tagging project). I completed a Leadership Development I course in 2013, 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 includes western Wyoming from Dubois to Evanston. I also serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of a local Lander ditch corporation. I have served on the Lander Library Friends Association Board, and continue to facilitate their annual retreat. I coached a competitive synchronized swimming team in Lander for 6 years. These professional and personal affiliations have taught me the value of working with a diversity of people who share common goals, how to glean the best ideas from various interests, how to be productive, and how to achieve success.

**Principal Professional Interests**

Engaging in topics relevant to wildlife conservation, both historically and in today's world, by including all who have the knowledge, desire, and skills to contribute to the wildlife profession, and by ensuring we promote and deliver science-based management and research decisions.

**Views: Limit of 250 words.**

My involvement with The Wildlife Society began as an undergraduate at Colorado State University, thanks to several mentors who introduced me to our professional organization. That positive TWS experience at the Student Chapter level led to a decades-long and continuing involvement with the Wyoming State Chapter. From there, I learned the value of serving and remaining engaged through the Central Mountains and Plains Section and on The Wildlife Society Council as a CMPS voting district representative. Although the first half of my term on Council was virtual, I have learned so much about how TWS operates, and I am pleased to see that science, education, and members continually remain at the forefront. It has been an honor getting to know and sharing ideas with TWS staff and other Council members. Please know that I am committed to TWS and sincerely wish to use the knowledge gained from my first term to continue to be a steadfast voice for wildlife conservation by serving our CMPS members for a second term on TWS Council. Meanwhile as I complete the current term, please remember that I am here for you, I am open to conversations, and I hope to see many of you in-person at upcoming conferences!