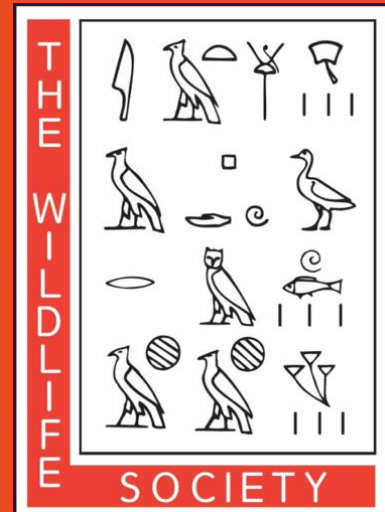


NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023



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Election Link!

Please click here to submit your vote! Bios are included starting on page 13 of this Newsletter.

Last day to vote is Feb 10!

https://twselection.site/election_ncs_2023/

President's Message- Resiliency

A few years ago, I visited my in-law's property situated just outside the Des Moines (Iowa) metro area. Their property was somewhat unique in this highly-urbanized landscape - they had owned their five acres of pasture long before the city had grown around them, therefore resulting in a small oasis of grass. My mother-in-law had recently established a small colony of bluebird boxes around the perimeter of the pasture, determined to attract these neat birds to her property. Perhaps not surprising to any wildlifer, House Sparrows were quick to take up residence. Her diligence in evicting the invaders was not enough to overcome the sparrows' tenacity, which was extremely disappointing for her because she was seeing Eastern Bluebirds frequenting the pasture.



One day in late spring, I was walking through the barnyard to recover a frisbee tossed by my son. In the middle of the barnyard was an aged, wooden fence post that had lost the top 12 inches to decay. Walking by the fencepost to recover the frisbee, I was startled by the flush of a female bluebird. The sudden flush of a bird during the nesting season prompts any wildlifer to immediately enter nest-searching mode, and I walked directly to the old fencepost as my starting point. There, nestled in a small cavity in the top of the decaying fencepost, were five, bright-blue Eastern Bluebird eggs. It was that experience, in a postage stamp pasture in the middle of a presumably hostile landscape for wildlife with an abundance of non-native nest-site competitors, that I realized just how resilient our native wildlife are.

A wildlifer is no stranger to challenges. In fact, challenges sometimes seem to be a way of life for us. Watching Recovering American's Wildlife Act (RAWA) fall out of consideration in the last hour was a blow to all of us and to the wildlife and natural resources we are charged to protect. However, what I've come to realize in my short career is that we wildlifers are also amazingly resilient. Whether it be battling woody encroachment on a remnant prairie, quickly modifying protocols to handle an unforeseen issue to save the field season, or investigating a complex poaching case, wildlifers put on their thinking caps and come up with innovative solutions even when operating under myriad constraints. Among what might seem like an endless barrage of challenges, there are still victories. The great work we do will live on for future generations to enjoy.

It's been a great honor to serve as your President for the past year and a pleasure to work with the many fantastic leaders on our Executive Board. Thank you for the opportunity and keep fighting like the Eastern Bluebird in the postage stamp pasture. Our natural resources are lucky to have you on their team.

Take care,

Tyler

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society
Treasurer's Report
1/1/22 - 12/31/22

TOTAL FUNDS as of 1/1/2022

\$77,790.91

| CHECKING | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2022 | | | \$6,910.00 | |
| Date | Description | Expense | Income | |
| 1/7/22 | Midwest F&W Conference exhibitor | \$600.00 | | |
| 1/31/22 | Membership dues: 4th Qtr 2021 | | \$2,940.00 | |
| 2/2/22 | Award plaques: Cyclone Awards | \$176.55 | | |
| 2/2/22 | Award plaque shipping: T. Harms | \$72.02 | | |
| 2/2/22 | Graduate Student of the Year: H. Butkiewicz | \$500.00 | | |
| 2/14/22 | Undergraduate Student of the Year: B. Brecka | \$500.00 | | |
| 2/18/22 | Transfer from MAFWA travel grant | | \$6,877.00 | |
| 2/28/22 | Transfer from MAFWA travel grant | | \$6,594.32 | |
| 3/14/22 | Exec Board Travel: S. Meister | \$500.00 | | |
| 3/18/22 | Transfer from MAFWA travel grant | | \$2,035.00 | |
| 3/23/22 | Transfer from MAFWA travel grant | | \$0.20 | |
| | 37 travel grants | \$15,506.52 | | |
| 4/20/22 | Membership dues: 1st Qtr 2022 | | \$1,370.00 | |
| 7/25/22 | Membership dues: 2nd Qtr 2022 | | \$480.00 | |
| 7/27/22 | Travel grant reimbursement: U of Illinois | \$75.00 | | |
| 7/27/22 | Travel grant reimbursement: U of Illinois | \$480.00 | | |
| 9/7/22 | Out in the Field support | \$750.00 | | |
| 9/7/22 | transfer to Professional Development | \$211.43 | | |
| 10/25/22 | Membership Dues: 3rd Qtr 2022 | | \$660.00 | |
| 11/1/22 | Midwest F&W Conference exhibitor | \$600.00 | | |
| 11/1/22 | Nurturing Trauma workshop @ TWS conference | \$1,000.00 | | |
| | Subtotal | \$20,971.52 | \$20,956.52 | |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022 | | | | \$6,895.00 |

| SAVINGS | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2022 | | | \$1,599.49 | |
| Date | Description | Expense | Income | |
| | monthly interest | | \$0.83 | |
| | Subtotal | \$0.00 | \$0.83 | |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022 | | | | \$1,600.32 |

| PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2022 | | | \$47,371.84 | |
| Date | Description | Expense | Income | |
| 9/7/22 | transfer from Checking | | \$211.43 | |
| | monthly interest | | \$207.13 | |
| | Subtotal | \$0.00 | \$418.56 | |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022 | | | | \$47,790.40 |

| MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2022 | | | \$21,909.58 | |
| Date | Description | Expense | Income | |
| 2/18/22 | Transfer to Checking | \$6,877.00 | | |
| 2/28/22 | Transfer to Checking | \$6,594.32 | | |
| 3/18/22 | Transfer to Checking | \$2,035.00 | | |
| 3/23/22 | Transfer to Checking | \$0.20 | | |
| | monthly interest | | \$26.60 | |
| | Subtotal | \$15,506.52 | \$26.60 | |
| Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022 | | | | \$6,429.66 |

TOTAL FUNDS as of 12/31/2022

\$62,715.38

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Meister
Treasurer, North Central Section

UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVES TO COUNCIL, PAT LEDERLE AND JASON RIDDLE



This is my (PL) last report as your Section Representative. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve and I'm pleased that Jason Riddle is now our new Representative.

The Wildlife Society Council meeting was held Nov. 5 and 6, 2022, in Spokane, WA prior to the Annual Conference (conducted in person for the first time in three years!). Over 2,000 attended and it was great to see everyone in person. Council met informally on the evening of Nov. 4 for a great discussion on the DEI Vision (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) and the actions TWS is taking to promote this initiative.

Much of the work of TWS Council is conducted in committees. During the past three years, I served on the following committees:

- Diversity (involved with hiring an ombuds for the annual conference)
- Publications (new publisher contract, new journal formats, Wildlife Society Bulletin going to open access, hired new Editor-in-Chief for Wildlife Monographs)
- Position Statements (completed Climate Change, Sustainability, and Wildlife; Lead in Hunting Ammunition and Fishing Tackle; Rangeland Livestock Grazing)
- Policy Priorities (chair)

UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL, CONTINUED

I also served as Council liaison to the Editorial Review Board of the Wildlife Professional and on the hiring committee for our new CEO Ed Arnett.

Based on input from working groups, Sections, and Chapters who responded to the call for input on policy priorities, Council will be deciding on which are the most important for staff, Council, and members to focus on.

There was continuing discussion of international engagement. As an IUCN member, TWS gets to weigh in on many international wildlife issues. The question remains regarding how effective TWS can be on the international front and what resources are available to help ensure our voices are heard.

There was more discussion of moving toward hybrid conferences. This approach was cost prohibitive for the Spokane conference, yet presentations and other conference resources have been made available after the conference. More venues are gearing up to develop the infrastructure needed for hybrid conferences; without it, the technology needs to be brought in at much higher additional cost.

All Council meetings include detailed discussion of the financial health of TWS; we are doing well from a fiscal standpoint.

Council was briefed by important partners, including US Geological Survey, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. These discussions are critical to help ensure we are pulling in the same direction on behalf of wildlife and wildlife professionals.

During 2023, a revision of TWS Strategic Plan is being conducted and there will be several opportunities for TWS member input. The intent is to complete the process in one year.

One of the excellent workshops conducted at this year's conference was a Trauma Informed Conservation session that was supported by the North Central Section.

UPDATES FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL, CONTINUED.

One of the most enjoyable and compelling events of the Conference was the storytelling session on the last evening. It was a first of its kind at the conference and was very well received. Emotions ranged from laughing to crying as the five participants told their stories of navigating the often difficult balance between work and personal lives.



Wow...I (JR) have really big shoes to fill! Many thanks to Pat for his hard work over the past three years as our Section Representative. I shadowed Pat during the Council Meetings in Spokane prior to being instated as your new Representative. I've served with Pat on the North Central Section executive board for the past 3 years, but I really didn't appreciate the level of Pat's commitment until I saw how many documents, policies, and decisions he was involved with during the Spokane Council Meetings. Our Section has benefited from Pat's involvement and our Section, through Pat, has made important contributions to TWS that will impact wildlife and wildlifers for many, many years to come. I'm humbled to follow Pat and I'm very grateful for the example he has set. I will do my best to represent our Section and your interests. My initial committee assignments include the Policy Priorities and the Diversity Committee. So, if you have anything you would like to communicate to me on those topics, then please don't hesitate to contact me. Of course, you also are welcome to contact me about any other issues that you think are important for our Section.

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society sponsored symposia

83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, February 12 -15, 2023, Overland Park, KS

By Gary E. Potts, Jace Elliott, and Cary Chevalier

Professional Development Committee, NCS of TWS

Symposium - Public Engagement in Wildlife Conservation: Community Leaders, Landowners, and Partners - 8 talks

1. The Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program: Creating a Community of Scientists - Stephanie Shepherd, Iowa DNR
2. Kansas Great Plains Grassland Initiative: Rancher Driven, Science Informed, Agency Supported - Cade Rensick, Kansas State University; Dean Krehbiel, NRCS
3. People powered research: Using camera traps to monitor wildlife through partnership with the public, Christine Anhalt-Depies and Jennifer Stenglein, Wisconsin DNR
4. Camera Trap Research as a Community Engagement and Education Tool - Laura S. Whipple and Diana Lafferty, Northern Michigan University
5. Expanding Reach, Resources, and Public Engagement in Wildlife Management: Monitoring EHD Events in Indiana - Joe Caudell and Emily McCallen, Indiana DNR
6. Engaging Hunters in Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Safe Carcass Disposal - Amanda Kamps, Timothy Marien, Eric Canania, Curt Rollman, Daniel Storm, Wisconsin DNR
7. Creating Chronic Wasting Disease Ambassadors in Iowa - Tyler Harms, Iowa DNR; Adam Janke, Iowa State University
8. Do Attendees at Public Meetings Represent Stakeholders at Large? - Craig A. Miller, Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois

Symposium - The Role and Impact of Student Organizations to the Future of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management - 7 talks

1. The Wildlife Society Student Chapter Benefits: Experiences from a Student Member by Laura Whipple, Northern Michigan University
2. Student Leadership in The Wildlife Society by Ethan Bennie, MO Western State University
3. Student Organizations can be Important Student Development Vehicles for Applied Learning Experiences, by Cary Chevalier, MO Western State University
4. Mutual Partnerships: How State Chapters of The Wildlife Society can Provide Better Opportunities to their Student Members by Jordon Meyer, MO Chapter TWS and MO DOC, and Gary Potts, North Central Section
5. TWS Core competences, skill development and leadership: What hiring wildlife professionals look for in successful candidates by Darrin Welchert, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6. Navigating the Path to Professional Success: How Wildlife Agencies View Student Participation in The Wildlife Society by Alan Leary, MO DOC and Gary Potts, IL DNR (Retired) and NCS, TWS
7. Panel Discussion led by Gary Potts, North Central Section, TWS

STUDENT CORNER: PURDUE STUDENT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The Purdue Student Chapter of TWS had a great 2022 fall semester! We kicked off our semester with an invitation to attend a local bat mist netting demonstration led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Activities for our general meetings during the fall semester included great guest speakers (Gael Sanchez-Wildlife Biologist for the Bay Mills Indian Community in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and Lee Humberg from the USDA Wildlife Services), invasive species removals at a nearby Purdue-owned Forest property, and a tour of the wildlife specimen collection at Purdue with an additional opportunity to learn how to pin starling wings. We were able to gain experience with CWD Sampling by volunteering with the INDNR at various processing facilities. Additionally, we have four working groups- birds, herps, mammals, and hunting- that held additional events such as herping at a Purdue property, bird banding, telemetry tag, working on our wood duck boxes, and a DNR-mentored dove hunt.

For the first year since 2019, we were able to send eight students to The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington to present posters, network, attend presentations, and compete in the Quiz Bowl Competition. We had three undergraduate students (Alex Dudley, Amanda Herbert, and Gabrielle Dennis) present their research posters. Our Quiz Bowl team consisted of Ashlanna Murray, Alex Dudley, Annie Talbot, and Evan Kinnevan with Lauren Wetterau as our alternate, and we placed third! Attending the Annual TWS Conference was a great opportunity for students to connect with professionals and learn about current research and techniques in the wildlife field!

We are looking forward to our upcoming spring semester and all that we have planned! We plan to travel to Cook County to get experience with trapping, tagging, banding, and radio telemetry. We also are looking forward to attending Conclave in March. For general and working group meetings, we have some great guest speakers lined up and ideas for meetings and trips to take. Finally, we will be participating in multiple educational events at Purdue including the Community Nature Day hosted by the SCEE club (Student Chapter of Environmental Education), Spring Fest, and Purdue Ag Week.



Image 1: Purdue Chapter of TWS 2022 Quiz Bowl Team placed third in the competition at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington. (From left: Chapter faculty advisor Dr. Flaherty, Lauren Wetterau, Ashlanna Murray, Alex Dudley, Evan Kinnevan, Anne Talbot).

Image 2: Purdue Student Chapter of TWS attended a local bat mist netting demonstration led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Image 3: Purdue Student Chapter of TWS Birds Working Group gaining experience handling and collecting data on birds with Purdue's bird banding lab.

STUDENT CORNER: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE

My name is Molly and I am president of the Michigan State University Chapter of TWS. For the NCS Newsletter, I want to highlight the work that our Outreach Chair, Katie King, and Social Chair, Sarah McDonnell, have done with our "Life of a Salmon" outreach board game. The board game was suggested by Katie and constructed with the help of the rest of our executive board. The goal of the game is to teach children about the consequences of human impacts on migratory salmon. Players put themselves in the mind of a salmon, that is, our mini coho salmon figurines, and navigate through challenges such as dams, being held out of water for too long, pollution, and climate change impacts such as warming water temperatures.

This year we took our board game to events at a local zoo, our campus museum, and a couple elementary schools. I've included pictures of Katie (left) and Sarah (right) at Donley Elementary School's Science Night in East Lansing, MI this past December. So far, we've received very positive feedback from kids who've shared their enthusiasm about pretending to be a salmon. When they've completed the game, we give them a salmon coloring sheet with facts to take home. The game has improved our club's outreach and has been a lot of fun for us too!

I've included a couple of our cards from the game as well. Thank you for the opportunity to share, and let me know if you have any questions!



STUDENT CORNER: BALL STATE STUDENT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Submitted by Steve Doll, President

This has been a fantastic year for the Ball State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Our first meeting of the Fall semester, New Member Trivia Night, had one of the largest turnouts of any meeting, with 81 people attending. This past semester, we've had a variety of speakers for our meetings including an orangutan keeper from the Indy Zoo, an INDOT Ecologist, DNR non-game ornithologist, and a behavioral ecologist. Additionally, we hosted a CV and Internship Night to help students know how to look and prepare for internship applications.

Our group has also participated in multiple volunteering events, including the local White River Clean Up in Muncie and Pulling for Bats. During the White River Clean Up, we removed trash from the riverbank, while also getting the opportunity to kayak and enjoy the scenery along the river. For Pulling for Bats, we worked with other volunteers at the Red-tail Land Conservancy property, Munsee Woods, to remove invasive plants, such as autumn olive and honeysuckle, in order to restore native habitat for bats.

This semester, we have many events planned for the chapter. In addition to hosting more guest speakers, we are planning a "Career Readiness Night" in February to help members practice for interviews. Also in February, over 20 of our members will be attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Overland Park, Kansas. We will also be putting together a workshop day to develop skills needed in the field (past examples include orienteering and telemetry). This looks to be a promising semester and we look forward to what lies ahead.



(Picture from the BSU-TWS Welcome Back Bonfire.)



(Picture from the BSU-TWS New Member Trivia Night.)



(Picture from the Pulling for Bats Event.)

STUDENT CORNER: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENSON POINT STUDENT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Submitted by Nicole Luoma

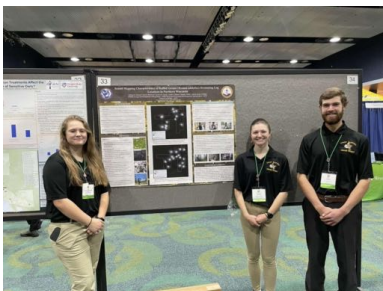
The UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is ecstatic to be back in full force this semester. We began our year with the traditional Root Beer Float social, and have created new traditions in our chapter as well. We created a Member Mentorship program to connect new students with those who have been part of TWS longer. Students are able to connect with their peers, who provide their insight involvement while taking mentees out with them on student-led projects.

Additionally, we have just elected and are excited to welcome a new position to our Officer Board: the TWS Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) Officer. This position works to create and present weekly highlighting diversity slides in general member meetings, while also coordinating and leading DEI-focused projects or workshops that will serve our student chapter and UWSP community.

Our 20, student-lead research projects have been off to a great start this year with members participating in flying squirrel trapping, small mammal trapping, and saw-whet owl banding. We added a new project this year, focusing on wild turkey. This project will gather data on poults and sex ratios through road observations.

We had 10 members attend the national conference in Spokane, Washington this year. Nicole Luoma and Maddie Hartlaub represented the Gray Squirrel project with their poster presentation on preliminary survivability estimates on eastern gray squirrels. Our Ruffed Grouse project, led by Ava Cross-Weisbeck, Catrina Johnson, and Zach Cason, presented a poster on acoustic importance to ruffed grouse drumming log selection. Additionally, Amber Smith and Hayden Walkush represented our Black Bear project with a poster presentation, and each presented on their independent research with wood ducks and wild turkey, respectively. We had fun competing in the annual quiz bowl and networking!

Back in Stevens Point, our education coordinator has been keeping herself and several other members busy with elementary and middle school functions teaching students about wildlife adaptations and other curriculum requested by teachers. At our weekly meetings, we have been lucky enough to hear from a wide variety of overly qualified speakers who do a great job of explaining their work and the ins and outs of the wildlife field from their workplace. We look forward to continuing new and old traditions such as the telemetry skills night, wildlife area cleanup days, and broomball in the following semester!



Images (L to R): 1. UWSP TWS Ruffed Grouse Project with their poster in Spokane. 2. UWSP TWS students who attended the national conference in Spokane! 3. Students volunteer with UWSP TWS' Adopt-a-Wildlife Area project in the Buena Vista Wildlife Area.

STUDENT CORNER: 2023 NCS STUDENT CONCLAVE!

CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS! CONCLAVE MARCH 24-26, 2023!

Back by popular demand, the NCS Student Conclave is coming back! Hocking College has volunteered to host in Ohio in March of 2023. We need to get an idea of who will plan to attend. Location will be in the Hocking Hills region of SE Ohio. The closest airport is Columbus and we will provide van shuttles for participants that need rides from the airport, as well as shuttles on-site. Please fill out the survey below so we can make our reservations. PLEASE NOTE- We will need a minimum number of participants in order for Conclave to be a success. A separate email will be sent to the student chapters with the links and additional information in the coming days.

Please fill out the Google Form link below to help plan the event.

Please contact Val Titus (vtitus7@mac.com) if you have any questions about joining the fun!

<https://forms.gle/LJzkdqYXShfSLikP8>

THE WILDLIFE PROFESSIONAL

This award-winning publication of The Wildlife Society provides wildlife professionals with articles and links to news and analysis that help to inform us about advances in wildlife science, conservation, management, policy, and education. It features in-depth articles, summaries of relevant scientific papers, profiles of wildlife professionals, new field techniques, and much more. The North Central Section's representative on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Wildlife Professional* (TWP) is Lowell Suring (lowell@northern-ecologic.com). He is your link to providing your thoughts and ideas about this publication to The Wildlife Society. As you read the publication, if you come across features or articles you particularly liked, disliked, or wanted to comment on, let Lowell know and he will take your thoughts to the Board and the Editor. Also, if you have ideas about subjects you would like to see covered in TWP, or would like to submit an article for publication, let Lowell know. This is your publication, help make it the best it can be.

Meet the Candidates!

President-Elect

Jeremy Holtz



My name is Jeremy Holtz, and I am a Regional Grant Project Manager with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant program, I work with nonprofit conservation organizations to protect and enhance wildlife habitat while ensuring public access and nature-based recreational use. Prior to starting this position in 2022, I worked as a Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Biologist for fifteen years, an Assistant Area Wildlife Manager for the Minnesota DNR for five years, and I worked various part-time and seasonal positions in Colorado, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

I have been involved with The Wildlife Society since attending Colorado State University, where I earned my B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1998. I served as President-elect of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2017 and President in 2018. During my time in those positions, I had the honor to serve in a leadership role in the North Central Section of TWS and was thoroughly impressed with the dedication and professionalism with which they conducted our Society's business.

In an effort to not only continue my involvement with TWS but also expand my own personal and professional horizons, I have worked to become increasingly involved with the Society. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist® in 2015 because I wanted to hold myself to the highest standards in our profession. I wrote an article on the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership for the TWS Wildlife Professional which was published in February 2017. While serving as President-Elect of the chapter, I also served on the program committee and chaired the plenary session subcommittee for the 2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference hosted here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In my year as President, I worked to improve participation and involvement in our chapter and section. I led a small committee that assembled and put on our Fall Technical Training session that focused on our elk herd as well as other Northwoods wildlife species. The Covid-19 pandemic changed the professional landscape, cancelling in-person meetings and conferences, but I continued to take advantage of the many online webinars and remote trainings and meetings offered by TWS and other organizations and agencies to help hone my professional edge.

If elected, my hope would be to have the opportunity to continue working with the Section on strengthening partnerships, developing training workshops and symposia, and

improving its relevance to all wildlife resource professionals. In my opinion, there has not been a more significant role for TWS to play in natural resource conservation than there is right now. At every level of government, our resources are experiencing serious strain and exploitation. After years of pandemic isolation and adaptation, social and professional networks have broken down. Hybrid work environments have made interactions more complex. For the first time in history, five generations are occupying workspaces, creating challenges in communication and cooperation. We need to work together to redevelop and redefine how conservation agencies and organizations will operate and interact as we move forward with the common goal of wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Matthew P. Ihnken



I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and a TWS member for over a decade. I currently serve as the Chair-elect for the Forest Wildlife Working Group and the Treasurer for the Renewable Energy Working Group. I have also served as Chair and Secretary for the Biological Diversity Working Group and as President of the Michigan Chapter. I am currently

the Director of Conservation for Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc. (ECT). I develop and implement landscape-level conservation plans for rare species and evaluate the impacts of renewable energy and transmission projects on endangered species. Before my time at ECT, I worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State of New Mexico. I chair several scientific advisory committees for several federal and state protected species. I believe that to have effective conservation, you need partnerships, and if elected President of the North Central Section, I will use my passion for conservation to grow partnerships between the Section and like-minded organizations or institutions to push effective conservation measures such as the passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), as well as other state and local initiatives. As President-Elect I would like to continue the work I started as President of the Michigan Chapter in engaging and welcoming the Tribal Nations with a vested interest in wildlife management in our Section. Partnerships take many forms. I also have many ideas that involve fostering engagement in the professional development of our members and TWS subunits, including state and student chapters, as well as working groups. As Charles Darwin once noted, "Intact nature has more diversity than nature in pieces" I believe we all know this

to be true, and it is true of The Wildlife Society and our Section. Having diversity of thought, culture, and individuals in our Section will only make us more effective at achieving our goals. Thank you for your consideration.

Treasurer

Geriann Albers



I grew up in southern Illinois about 45 minutes east of St. Louis in a small town. I was active in 4-H and in high school thought I'd work in agriculture related to livestock because that's what rural kids who liked animals did. I attended the University of Illinois and chose to be a Natural Resources and Environmental Science Major because upon the College's admission catalog that said "wildlife ecology" was a possible focus for that major. I haven't looked back since. After graduation, I moved around the country working technician jobs with badgers, urban coyotes, and

river otters for a few years because I was always drawn to medium sized carnivores. Then I began graduate school at West Virginia University assessing coyote diets. It was there I met the West Virginia furbearer biologist, Rich Rogers and then I knew what job I wanted to have someday. I am now the furbearer biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources after spending 3 years in Wisconsin as the Assistant Furbearer Biologist and Trapper Education Coordinator and 1.5 years as the Assistant Furbearer and Black Bear Biologist (if a student is reading this, no that straight of a career line is not normal, and yes, networking at meetings helped).

I am currently the Chair of the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group and a board member with the Indiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I'm a member of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group and the Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Awareness Working Group. I'm also a past board member of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, and past president of University of Illinois and West Virginia University Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society. I run a professional development seminar for the temporary technicians that work in my office and serve as my agencies representative to Indiana's Turn in a Poacher or Polluter Board to encourage

the reporting of wildlife and pollution violations. I pretended for a long time I liked hiking and camping, but I don't really. I like animals, the quest for knowledge, and solving problems. In my free time I also enjoy crocheting, reading fiction, basket weaving, and watching British and New Zealand murder mysteries (ask me about Brokenwood or Midsomer when we meet in person, happy to chat).

Jace Elliott



Having recently become an active member of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society, it's an honor to be asked to serve as Treasurer. I currently serve on the Professional Development Committee, where I've had the pleasure of organizing symposia for the 83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. In my time serving on this committee, I've found great reward in my efforts to highlight important work in the wildlife field and strengthen the professional network within our Section.

My current role is State Deer Biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This position is responsible for overseeing all research and management aspects of the white-tailed deer program in Iowa. I began my work with white-tailed deer in 2018 as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I volunteered with the Wisconsin DNR to assist with live deer captures. I continued to specialize in white-tailed deer as a graduate student in the Auburn University Deer Lab, from which I received my M.S. in 2021. Before filling my current role, I worked as the Deer Research Specialist for the Iowa DNR in partnership with the Wildlife Management Institute.

Much of what makes my career fulfilling comes from working with so many passionate and devoted individuals in the wildlife field. Being elected as Treasurer of the North Central Section would provide the opportunity to better serve this community and strengthen the positive impacts of this organization. Thank you for your consideration!

Undergraduate Student Representative

Alex Dudley



Ever since I was a child, I have had a passion for the outdoors and the animals in it. My earliest memory is that of collecting cicada shells and arguing with my sister over who got to hold the live one we had found. As I grew older, I began to go hunting and fishing with my dad and grandpa, and that only grew my interest in a career in wildlife.

Currently, I am a junior at Purdue University double majoring in Forestry and Wildlife. Although my classes have taught me a lot about wildlife, being involved in the Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has given me a solid foundation for my future. Through Purdue TWS, I have had the opportunity to gain hands on experience in bird banding, rabbit trapping, extension education, and so much more. During my sophomore year, I served as the secretary, running the social media accounts and collaborating with other clubs. This year, I am serving as the vice president, reaching out to professionals to obtain guest speakers. I am also currently serving as the North Central Section Undergraduate Representative, where I have been running the newly established NCS social media accounts and working with other executive board members to connect undergraduate students across the section. In addition to these officer positions, I am conducting a research project on black vultures and their home ranges in the Midwest, which requires me to work closely with USDA Wildlife Services to capture and tag black vultures. These experiences have given me valuable opportunities to improve my organization, leadership, and hands-on research skills. I have also had the chance to work with the USDA Wildlife Services as the crew lead for the Pest Bird Task Force, where I train new hires and communicate with the public to inform them of our management efforts. Opportunities provided by The Wildlife Society and Purdue have allowed me to build my skills as a soon-to-be wildlife professional. Being involved in TWS has helped me to narrow down my field of interest and has been extremely influential as I determine my future career path.

I would be honored to continue my position as the North Central Section Undergraduate Representative because I strongly believe this organization benefits students, professionals, and the wildlife we strive to protect. This position has helped me to network with professionals and share valuable ideas from a student's point-of-view to help improve experiences within the section. This year, I have strived to connect undergraduates within the section, and I hope to continue this goal into the future.

Jacob Tepsa

Discovering my passion is something that I've been seeking ever since I was a child. I grew up in west central Wisconsin and had many interests at a young age from geology to meteorology and now as an undergraduate, wildlife ecology. I spent many of my days exploring the outdoors, especially as a boy scout. My grandfather always told me about his younger days and how he wanted to be a game warden. His passion for conservation inspired me to find a career in natural resources that I love to this day.

Currently, I am a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point pursuing a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology & Management with a minor in Biology and a certificate in Fire Science. I've been involved with TWS for three years and am currently an officer of the UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I've served in a variety of leadership roles during my time at UWSP as a Caucus Chair for the College of Natural Resources in student government, Co-Chair for the CNR Research Symposium and Treasurer for the UWSP Fire Crew. And most recently, I was elected as Chair-Elect of the TWS Student Development Working Group. These roles have provided me the opportunity to understand the importance of getting real hands-on experiences for student's success in future careers.

This past summer, I worked as a Waterfowl Productivity Field Technician with four other undergraduates under Dr. Ben Sedinger. We collected breeding pair, brood and nest density data utilizing UAV and thermal technology. This experience along with being a co-leader for the TWS Waterfowl Project has fostered a love for waterfowl and undergraduate research. As I continue into my career, I will be looking to build upon my experience and pursue a graduate program. A career in conservation is special to each and every one of us. I am very grateful for those who have guided me along the way, and I strive to pass on the same motivation and mentorship during my remaining undergraduate years.

As a young professional in the natural resources field, I have found value in networking with fellow students and finding opportunities to get involved. With the North Central Section of TWS, my goal is to continue building working relationships with student chapters to collaborate on initiatives to boost student engagement within our chapters. It is important to bring diverse ideas to the table as we are the next generation coming into the wildlife field. I am continually inspired by my fellow peers involved with TWS and hope to continue the hard work that is needed to keep TWS growing for future years to come.

Graduate Student Representative

Jonathan Brooks



My passion for conservation began as a child growing up on the edge of suburbia in southwest Michigan. My family's home was situated on the edge of the urban sprawl and beyond our backyard was woodlots and fallow farm fields. I vividly remember playing in these woodlots and fields and acquired an appreciation for the wildlife found there. As I grew older and the urban sprawl expanded, the woodlots and farm fields where I used to play were replaced by housing developments and businesses. The experience of losing the places where I played as a child instilled in me a passion for conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat.

I earned a B.S. in Biology from Hope College and gained a passion for research working in my advisor's lab. After completing my B.S. degree, I interned at Oak Ridge National Laboratory with a group of scientists exploring climate change and nutrient cycling in forests. Following this internship, I took a field technician job with Bat Conservation International conducting bat and bird fatality surveys at a wind energy facility. After the field study ended, I decided to pursue an M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Clemson University. The focus of my thesis research was on the effect of early successional habitat restoration on bats. After completing my M.S. degree, I worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducting bat acoustical surveys. In 2021, I decided to pursue a Ph.D. and was accepted into the Forestry and Natural Resources program at Purdue University. My dissertation research is focused on white-tailed deer and chronic wasting disease. Specifically, I am implementing agent-based models to simulate the effectiveness of various disease control strategies. In addition to my research, I am a graduate TA for Purdue's summer wildlife techniques course, mentor undergraduate researchers, and serve as the graduate student advisor for Purdue's TWS chapter.

Although I have only been a TWS member for about two years, I have found membership in TWS to be extremely valuable. I have particularly benefited from the symposia and networking events at the national TWS meeting. If elected to be the North Central Section graduate student representative, I would work to increase graduate student engagement in the North Central Section. This could be accomplished by continuing the webinar series started last year and improving communication using the newsletter and social media.

Jeffrey Edwards



Growing up in northern Illinois, I was undecided in my career direction as most young adults are. However, I was fortunate to grow up with two supportive parents that encouraged me through some of the lowest points of my life when I was unsure of my life direction and purpose. I began hunting at a young age and sought out the peace and tranquility that the outdoors offered and became entranced with the behaviors and habits of our nation's wildlife. In the fall of 2016, I thought I had figured it out and began my undergraduate career at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) pursuing a degree in Natural Resources Law Enforcement. After one year, I decided to take time off and found a job working in the landscaping industry for two seasons. During this time, I joined two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). These organizations introduced me to the threat's wildlife are facing which ignited a desire to conserve, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat for the longevity of our nation's wildlife. These

events spurred my motivation to return to UWSP in the fall of 2019 to pursue my Bachelor's in Wildlife Ecology and Management.

Upon returning, I became an active member of the UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) engaging as a leader in three research projects, co-founding a new pollinator research project, attending student-professional workshops and conferences, and volunteering with the waterfowl, black bear, and saw-whet owl research projects. As a leader, I was able to offer valuable experience to TWS volunteers in data collection methodology, telemetry, habitat management, banding, and much more. My involvement with the waterfowl project and Dr. Ben Sedinger's waterfowl ecology and population dynamics courses sparked my passion and interest in waterfowl research, management, and biometrics. This passion drove me to assist various graduate students with their waterfowl research allowing me to work with wood ducks and emperor geese. These opportunities encouraged the initiation of my independent research project investigating blue-winged teal nest selection and nest survival as part of a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and UWSP. I received an North Central Section (NCS) travel grant that allowed me to attend and present my preliminary results at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC) in 2022 where I was awarded the Janice Lee Fenske Award. I am also actively engaged with BHA at the national and collegiate level as a past president of the UWSP BHA collegiate chapter. In this position, I helped adopt a local wildlife area, acquired two grants, led various land stewardship projects, and led a WDNR-UWSP collaboration on a chronic wasting disease (CWD) initiative and sent many colleagues to CWD workshops. My work experiences have taken me to Idaho working as a wildlife technician for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) supporting various U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and IDFG projects. This position granted me opportunities to remotely survey lynx habitat, moose winter forage habitat, and northern goshawks. I now work at the Winous Point Marsh Conservancy (WPMC) along the shores of Lake Erie in northern Ohio where I have continued working with waterfowl, wetlands, and shorebirds. In addition, I remain actively involved in local Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited chapters.

In my last semester at UWSP (Spring 2022), I was awarded the John Dale Graduate Waterfowl Fellowship through Delta Waterfowl offering me the opportunity to attend graduate school under Dr.

Lisa Webb within the University of Missouri USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. My project will focus on how wetland inundation and habitat selection is affecting the survival of blue-winged teal. This project offers an opportunity to investigate cross-seasonal effects on blue-winged teal and examine the impacts of climate change, wetland management strategies, and changing habitat availability throughout the Central and Mississippi flyways using GPS/GSM transmitters.

TWS has supported my young wildlife career in more ways than I ever imagined. The sense of security and familiarity I felt involved with UWSP TWS is the atmosphere I want to create for everyone. I am currently a member of the NCS TWS and the Biometrics Working Group. As a candidate for the Graduate Student Representative position, I will use my diverse background and leadership abilities to create a safe, accessible, inclusive environment for all individuals within the NCS TWS. I will also work in the NCS to ensure all students' voices are heard, respected, and implemented appropriately while maintaining communication with the students and the NCS executive board. It's important to me that all students in the NCS TWS feel included and supported as they voice ideas, concerns, and opinions. Lastly, I believe it is important for me to facilitate conversations among graduate students in the NCS to enhance networking opportunities among both the students and professionals. I want to thank you for your time, and I appreciate the opportunity to run for this position and represent you all. Regardless of the outcome of this election, I fully intend to continue pursuing office positions at the state, section, and national level of TWS.