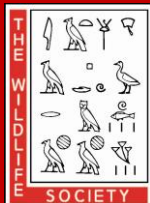


# OHIO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

### INSIDE:

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- New Upcoming Events!
- Winter Meeting Re-Cap
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Learn about Winous Point Marsh Conservancy's collaborative efforts to restore common terns in Ohio – Page 8

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a great summer filled with memorable moments and fulfilling endeavors! As people that are just as passionate about our careers as our personal life, sometimes they bleed together, and we overwork ourselves. Its hard not to be hyper-focused on our professional goals, while filling our plates with hobbies and family time. Now that Fall is upon us, take some time to slow down, and enjoy what I would consider the best season of the year!

In the upcoming year we are planning several events to engage with students and young professionals. We are also looking to engage with our professional membership and grow our connection with Ohio wildlife professionals. There will be opportunities to get involved and participate in some of our events. We planned a student workshop for late fall early winter with a hands-on learning experience combined with resume and cover letter training. Later in the winter, we will be organizing a Student/Professional Networking event, yet to be named. Keep your eyes out for details on this one, as we will invite professionals to attend and participate! Later next spring, Hocking College's TWS Student Chapter will be hosting the North Central Section Student Conclave and we will be partnering and supporting this great event where TWS Student chapters from across the NCS of TWS can network, learn, and build lifelong friendships with future colleagues. Not to mention putting their knowledge to the test in a Quiz Bowl competition against each other.

President – Renee Buck



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*NEW\*** Ohio Chapter of TWS will be hosting a 2023 Annual Meeting “Wildlife Summit”

**MARCH 30-31, 2023!**

**Deer Creek State Park Lodge and Conference Center, Sterling, OH**



**Hocking College is hosting the North Central Section of TWS’ Student Conclave March 24-26, 2023!**

Conclaves involve hands-on learning opportunities, dynamic speakers, and networking with professionals and students across 8 states in the Midwest. Please keep an eye-out with your student chapter emails for additional information.



# OCTWS 2022 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2022 Annual Business Meeting

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:30-6:30pm

ODNR – DOW District-1 Office  
1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215

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- 1) OCTWS Officer Reports
  - a) President – Renee Buck
    - i) Announce new Secretary (Lisa Zoromski, Five Rivers Metro Park)
    - ii) IVM Workshop, great attendance at Dawes Arboretum in September 2021
    - iii) Student Workshops cancelled in 2021, no RSVPs/attendance; goal for 2022 to re-establish clear and consistent communication with student chapters
  - b) President-Elect – Erin Hazelton
    - i) Re-iterated connections with current student chapters and explore opportunities to engage
  - c) Past President – Grace Dietsch (absent)
  - d) Secretary – Gabe Karns
    - i) Student Wildlife Research Symposium back on the schedule for Hueston Woods, Gabe will be giving keynote talk at the Symposium
    - ii) Newsletters for 2021, only the Fall/Winter Newsletter went out
  - e) Treasurer – Katie Dennison
    - i) Starting Balance \$21,880.79; 2021 Income Total \$1,896.88 (\$951.88 workshops + \$695 dues + misc); 2021 Expenses \$848.45; Ending Balance \$22,679.22 (Net increase \$798.43)
- 2) Committee/Student Chapter Reports
  - (1) Kristina Slover actively pursuing “boots on the ground” projects through partnerships
  - (2) Planning to host another internship during summer 2022
  - b) TWS Student Chapter Reports
    - i) Hocking College – 5 students attending OWMA; chapter is pursuing Conclave for the National Conference (report given by Valorie Titus)
    - ii) University of Rio Grande – no report
    - iii) Ohio State University – no report
      - (1) Bob Gates suggested to reach out to OSU Ducks Unlimited chapter
- 3) New Business
  - (1) Guest: Bob Lanka, TWS Vice President (33-year career with Wyoming Game & Fish)
    - (a) Will be TWS President in 2 years
    - (b) National TWS news –
      - (i) RAWA involvement – after vote in Committee will now go to full House
      - (ii) working on Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the definition of “take” / also implications for the Migratory Bird Protection Act  
currently Chair of the Position & Issue Statements Committee – revising 5 actively including Climate, Endangered Species Act, non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle statements
      - (iii) reiterated Mariah as the point person to approach student chapters from top-down;
      - (iv) publication contract with Wiley is expiring this year – lots of difficult decisions to make moving forward in the face of open-access, budgetary constraints, etc;
      - (v) DEI vision statement is a great add to the organization (“The Voices” column in *The Wildlife Professional*)
      - (vi) Dr. Ed Arnett started in replacement of Ed Thompson as CEO – Forestry in the West background, TRCP leadership, Bat Conservation International Director of Science and Policy; USFWS, NPS, USFS past positions as well
- 4) Adjourn (6:30pm)
- 5) At 7:00pm join OWMA and OCTWS for a networking event hosted by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) at Land-Grant Brewing Company (424 W. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215).

# NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Lisa Zoromski – Secretary

Lisa is the biologist for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio. She has been involved with TWS in previous leadership roles: TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2020/21, Student Representative for the North Central Section and Wisconsin Chapter, and held 3 officer positions as a student chapter member at UW–Stevens Point. Lisa moved to Ohio in 2020 post-graduate school from Texas A&M University – Kingsville, where she worked on a collaborative project to understand nilgai antelope behavior to enhance treatment measures for cattle fever ticks. Previously, she worked as a wildlife technician with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services in Columbus, Ohio. Lisa is excited to be on the Ohio TWS board and looks forward to planning career development events for OCTWS members.



## SEEKING NOMINATIONS

**Interested in being involved with the OHIO CHAPTER of The Wildlife Society in a leadership role? We are seeking nominations for Treasurer and President-Elect to be elected in March 2023.** If you would like to run or have questions, please email [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com) by **February 28th**. You will be asked for a brief bio and a photo to be reviewed by members and voted on in March.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** (who shall serve as Vice-President and succeed to the Presidency)– The President-elect shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or upon the inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. In the event the President-elect cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro-tempore. The President-elect shall be the Program Student Chapters Committee Chairperson.

**TREASURER** – shall maintain the Ohio Chapter's financial records including the receipts and disbursements of funds, and the maintenance of membership rolls. The Treasurer shall submit complete financial reports to the last meeting of the person's term of office. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the permanent membership records of the Ohio Chapter and be responsible for all the correspondence with The Society concerning membership and financial records concerning the Ohio Chapter. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of the Chapter membership list annually and the distribution of this list to all officers. At the completion of this term the Treasurer shall serve as Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

**TERM OF OFFICE** - The Ohio Chapter officers must be National Members (Article IV, Section 1), be installed at the annual meeting, take office immediately following the annual meeting, and unless re-elected, terminate their duties at such time as their successors are elected and installed. The Past-President, President and President-elect shall serve two-year terms. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for two-year terms and their terms shall be staggered so that both are not elected in the same year.

# STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

## ~University of Rio Grande~



Three students presented at the Ohio Wildlife Management Conference this past winter (pictured are Rachel Brooks, Whit Byrd, Tre French III, and Jordan Carey).

Rio Grande also conducted extensive spring pond-breeding salamander surveys in southeastern Ohio, and came across this nice four-toed salamander (picture attached). Rachel Brooks is pictured holding a red-spotted newt from Tycoon Lake. The picture in the rain is us putting out amphibian traps. Pictured is Tre, Brady Saupe and Gabby Lawrence.



We took a three-day trip to the Dolly Sods Wilderness area, and tromped around Blackwater Falls and Bear Rocks. Pictured on the ledge of Bear Rocks, right-to-left, Clayton Embrey, Gabby Lawrence, Brady Saupe, Whit Byrd, Tori Wilson and Jordan Carey (all members).

Over the summer, we did a survey of aquatic turtles and their associated leech communities in southeastern Ohio. Jess Dyson was our paid field tech for the summer, and she got lots of herping in, including participating in a long-term study of eastern box turtle activity, using radio telemetry. Whit Byrd secured a paid tech position for the summer with Crane Hollow Nature Preserve, and helped out too.



# TWS SUPPORTED EVENTS

## Student Wildlife Research Symposium

On March 31<sup>st</sup> students presented at the research symposium at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge. Ohio TWS sponsored a donation to this event. If you are interested in presenting for the 2024 syposium April 13, 2023 check out the link below: <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/education-training/environmental-education/student-wildlife-research-symposium>



## Fall Workshop

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTWS hosted a bird banding and resume building workshop at Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest. We are grateful for Dr. Matt Shumar for leading the bird banding component. There were 24 students in attendance from Hocking College and The Ohio State University. OCTWS looks forward to hosting career development workshops in both spring and summer for students and professionals. If you have an interest in planning a workshop or have ideas please contact the board.



### 3-Minute Thesis Competition

On December 10<sup>th</sup> Five Rivers MetroParks hosted a Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT). Students presented from 4 local Universities (Wright State, University of Dayton, Air Force Institute of Tech., and Miami University) about their environmental research projects. Awards were sponsored by Ohio TWS and recipients included:

Abby Hay – Director’s Award - Miami University “Individual and interactive effects of white-tailed deer and woody invasives on native tree seedlings in an early successional forest”

Stephanie Murrie – Best Research Proposal – University of Dayton “Making solar power work for all: How insects are colonizing novel habitats”

Sam Urquidez – People’s Choice Award – University of Dayton “Do farmers’ perceptions impact pollinator recruitment methods in urban agriculture?”

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Winous Point Marsh Conservancy’s Common Tern Project



Common terns (*Sterna hirundo*) are a species of conservation concern throughout the Great Lakes region and their breeding population been in steady decline since the 1970s. The Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Joint Venture identifies common terns as a focal species for waterbirds representing open water habitats during the breeding and non-breeding season. This distinction is important as conservation of habitat for focal species should benefit other birds that have similar habitat requirements.

Common terns in Ohio historically nested on the sand and gravel beaches and islands of western Lake Erie and foraged in the near-shore waters of the open lake and in large coastal wetlands. Common terns face many different threats during the breeding season, including disturbance from humans, high-water events, competition for nest sites with gulls, and nest predation from a variety of predators. The loss of quality breeding habitat is thought to be a major reason for population declines and common terns in Ohio are now entirely dependent on man-made nesting platforms.

The common tern has been listed as state endangered in Ohio since 1974. The Ohio Division of Wildlife’s (ODW) 1990-1995 Strategic Plan established the goal of maintaining common tern breeding populations in Ohio and began management to achieve those goals. Artificial nesting platforms were established at several sites in northwest Ohio beginning in 1994. The platforms have been relocated several times in recent years. In 2020 a colony that was previously at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge was moved to the Howard Marsh Metropark, and in 2022 a colony that had been at the Willow Point Wildlife Area was moved to the Winous Point Marsh Conservancy.



Ohio Division of Wildlife Staff have monitored Ohio's common tern colonies dating back to the 1990s. Research staff from the Winous Point Marsh Conservancy (WPMC) began assisting with monitoring in 2018 to provide the ODW with data needed to track annual nest success and fledging rates at Ohio's tern colonies. WPMC staff visits each colony weekly from late May to late August. WPMC staff numbers and tracks each nest to the end of the nesting season, bands each tern chick that hatches, and recaptures tern chicks weekly until they fledge. Ohio's common tern colonies have done well the last 2 years fledging an estimated 286 chicks in 2021 and 360 chicks in 2020.

By late August most of the juvenile terns will have fledged and weekly monitoring by WPMC staff will have ended. Many of Ohio's common terns will likely then head to wintering grounds in Peru. Common terns do not typically breed their first summer as mature adults (only about 5% do). We are uncertain how likely common terns are to return to the colony they hatched from to attempt to breed, so a great deal of uncertainty still exists in understanding how Ohio's tern colonies contribute to the population dynamics of breeding common terns throughout the Great Lakes region. This is just one of many questions that could use an answer to improve common tern conservation in Ohio and throughout the Great Lakes!



## The Ohio State University Coyote Ecology and Management Project

Few animals elicit such strong, and opposing, emotions as the coyote. But love 'em or hate 'em, after decades of range expansion across the United States, coyotes are an established predator throughout Ohio. So, the question we can all agree on is: How do we minimize potential conflicts with coyotes in this state? And to answer that question, we need data.

Livestock production is a cultural and economic staple in Ohio, but it differs in many ways from production in the western US, where most of the coyote research has been done. Although Ohio produces more sheep and lambs than any other state east of the Mississippi River, the average flock size is 36 head, which means the loss of even a single animal exacts a disproportionate financial toll from local operators. Livestock loss to predators is regularly cited as a principal challenge facing producers in this state, but coyote damage to livestock in Ohio has likely been underestimated and underreported in recent years. Additionally, ecosystems in the Midwest are vastly different than those in the west. For any management strategy to effectively protect against coyote predation in Ohio, we need to know more about *Ohio* coyotes. With support from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, our team at The Ohio State University has begun a multi-year study to 1) provide unbiased data on the extent to which coyotes consume livestock in Ohio, and 2) identify strategies for managing the conflict.

Since January, we have been collecting data from coyotes from all around the state to get baseline information on the biology of individuals and populations. We have collected tissue samples and body measurements from 91 individuals, Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society – Newsletter 2022

either roadkill or hunter harvested, from across 23 counties in Ohio. Age estimates from the cementum annuli in teeth, combined with estimates of litter size from uterine scars, will allow us to draw inferences about the demographics of populations around the state. This information is relevant to the management of coyotes, particularly where livestock losses to predation are more common, because predation has previously been tied to pup-rearing in coyote populations in other parts of the country.

Whisker samples might allow us to reconstruct coyote diet through short periods of time by analyzing the unique signatures of carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios in the tissue. Understanding the coyote diet can illuminate patterns of foraging behavior, impacts to other wildlife, and the proportion of the diet that consists of domestic livestock. Cementum annuli and isotope analyses are being conducted by specialized, dedicated labs, so results from this work are forthcoming.

Our next phase will involve the development and testing of management strategies to prevent livestock loss to coyotes. We are seeking livestock producer collaborators to investigate coyote space use and survival near livestock operations, especially during the time when lambing and pup-rearing coincide.

Additionally, discussions with stakeholders in OSU Extension and USDA/WS identified potential coyote deterrents with promise that are worth investigating here in the eastern US.

The overall purpose of this project is to provide practical information to minimize livestock-coyote conflict in Ohio. If you are interested in contributing to the project, as a producer partner or with assistance collecting samples, please contact us for more information.



Principal investigator: Dr. Stan Gehrt, Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist

Interested?

Contact the OSU Coyote Project at:

[OHcoyote@osu.edu](mailto:OHcoyote@osu.edu)

## OHIO PUBLICATIONS AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Jerger, A. D., et al. 2022. Impact of animal programming on children's attitudes toward local wildlife. *Zoo Biology*: 1-10.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/zoo.21702>

Hale, V. L., et al. 2021. SARS-CoV-2 infection in free-ranging white-tailed deer. *Nature* 602: 481–486.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-04353-x>

Rosenblatt, C. J. , et al. 2021. Are northern bobwhites an umbrella species for open-land birds in Ohio? *Journal of Wildlife Management* 86: 1–22.

<https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jwmg.22141>

ODNR Safety Week: Chainsaw Safety with Ben Kelley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUSD1gsA7Es>

## CONTACT US:

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Lisa Zoromski  
Secretary



**Do you have interesting research or events you'd like to share  
with Ohio TWS Members?**

Email us at [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com)!

**Interested in learning more about TWS? Check out  
<https://wildlife.org/>**