



South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



A Prairie Voice



Photo Courtesy of Dennie Mann

What's Inside...

- 2023 Annual Meeting happenings
 - Photos, annual meeting minutes
- Notes From Dennie Mann
- Executive Board Minutes



Wildlife day shifts

Notes & Photos from Dennie Mann...

Summer has arrived, spring and early summer provided great opportunity to photograph elk, bighorns and moose from the Teton, Yellowstone, Wind Cave, and Custer state park, with sharp-tail, ruffed, and sage grouse in western South Dakota.





We photographed bighorns in the National Elk Refuge and the young rams were practicing for the fall rut!

We found 8 Badlands bighorns lambs in June in the Pinnacles area and some mature rams in the area. The lambs blend in so well in that environment.



The cow moose that was in lush sagebrush vegetation, so she should be able to gain back some of the weight loss from a very severe winter.



The elk were near Kelly and around Jackson lake at the base of the Tetons.

The black bear made the hike out of the Yellowstone River basin at Tower junction.



Project proposals for the dirt work have been finalized for the GFP shooting and training complex 10 miles north of Rapid City and only 4 miles east of our home which will be great, bids should be awarded by the end of August with construction beginning in September! It is amazing that 80% of the PR dollars now come from recreational and competitive shooters and this facility will provide shooting and training opportunities.



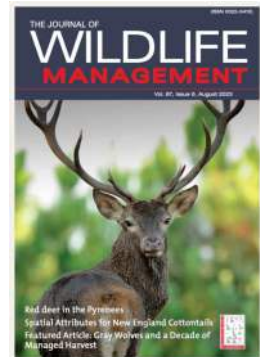
The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [TRACKING CURLEWS ACROSS THEIR MIGRATION](#)
- [FERRETS RETURN TO STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION](#)
- [WATCH: QUICK ACTION SAVES RARE BIRD CENTER FROM MAUI FIRE](#)

For the latest TWS News

<http://wildlife.org/learn/news-center/>



Check it out...

- Renew your membership [online](#) at SDTWS website
- SDTWS is on Facebook!

South Dakota Chapter

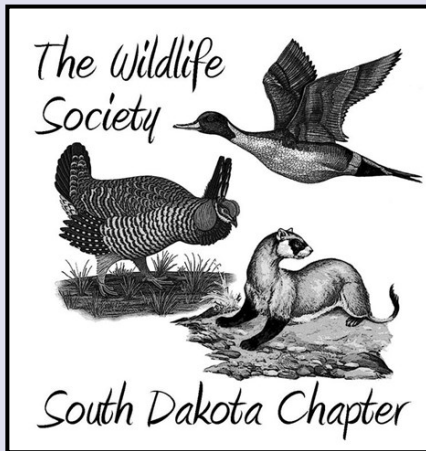


[Chapter Home](#) [About](#) [Membership](#) [Annual Meeting](#) [News](#) [Contact](#)

Click [here](#) to join the group! Facebook is a great way to share information, post events, to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest.

Contact Chuck Pyle at goosemansd@hotmail.com if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2023

Meeting called to order by Neiles at 1:06 PM (MT)/2:06 PM (CT), conducted via Microsoft Teams. Board Members in attendance: Daniel Kim, Melissa Greenwalt, Brady Neiles, Julie Lindstrom, Amanda Cheeseman. Absent: Bill Severud.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report—Approval of minutes from last executive board meeting 10/17/2022 Motion to approve from Neiles, 2nd from Lindstrom; motion passed.

Approval of Treasurer's report—Motion to approve from Lindstrom, 2nd from Kim; motion passed.

Old Business

2023 Annual Meeting Planning

- Requested estimate of cost to Cedar Shores for the 2020 meeting, approximately \$11,000 per Lindstrom/Neiles.
- Per Neiles, Cedar Shores needs a finalized menu for meals, as well as snacks.
- Overall, the board has not heard much in terms of feedback for requests for speakers or papers, uncertain of interest currently. The group discussed and agreed to extend the deadline for presentation applications to Feb 15th, as the TWS website won't be available until early February for updated annual meeting information.
- Neiles reviewed a draft meeting agenda he had put together with the group.
- The workshop, presented by Cheeseman, will be moved to Friday afternoon. She has taught up to 40 individuals in a virtual session, but could bring a graduate student to assist with the workshop. The board needs to set a registration fee, and Greenwalt can create a PayPal button for the website for this.
- In the past, the chapter has purchased kegs (approx. \$350 per) and hired bartenders (approx. \$15/hr) for the social and banquet. The board agreed to do so again, purchasing one keg for the social and two for the banquet.
- The group agreed that for the social, a silent auction is best. Kim and Neiles have discussed getting something from Leupold as the big ticket item for the raffle. Greenwalt has raffle tickets and silent auction forms. Lindstrom also suggested that a canvas/print of the last photo contest winner would be a good silent auction item.
- With regard to hotel arrangements, the board will again reserve a boys room and a girls room for students.
- Lindstrom will organize the presentation evaluations. Greenwalt has forms for these.
- Casey Heimerl has the SDTWS banners and will bring them to the meeting.
- Greenwalt will purchase name badges (don't have any left). She will also need to bring about \$300 in cash from the account to make change for registrations/membership fees.
-

- Lindstrom shared two travel grant requests with the board—approved for two students, in the amount of \$200 each. The board will add to the annual business meeting agenda a topic regarding these travel grants, should the chapter feel a more formal process to approve these is needed.
- Lindstrom will check with Paul Coughlin about serving as the annual business meeting parliamentarian, as he has done in the past.
- Greenwalt will go set up the Verizon hot spot for a month of service, prior to the meeting, for wifi at the meeting. Hotel wifi has not been adequate in the past.
- There are two square devices, but Neiles suggested looking into PayPal as we already have an account and money can be sent directly into that account without any fees.
- The photo contest will be announced with a message to the membership from Jennifer Briggs—will request members bring an 8x10 photo. Greenwalt has materials for the contest.

New Business

- Dennis Larson requesting \$500 for plants/pollinators fact sheet.
Dennis is wanting to put this together as a private citizen. The board feels that well-developed fact sheets are already available to the public and to legislators from federal and NGO sources. The board will decline this request.
- Savings account CD
Cheeseman mentioned that the board may be able to get larger returns from a CD—Wells Fargo is the current bank used for the group's checking and savings. The board will look into this after the annual meeting and more discussion about terms, amount invested, etc.
- CMPS Liaison for SDTWS
Brady Neiles is currently serving in this capacity, this can be added to the annual meeting agenda to discuss the position going forward.
- Executive Board Positions
Mandy Ensrud (SDGFP) has agreed to take Secretary / Treasurer position
Greenwalt will transition documents, Wells Fargo account access, etc. to Ensrud at the meeting.
Still need President-elect
Bill Severud as executive board

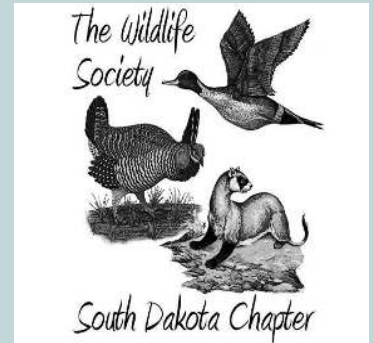
Neiles motioned to adjourn the meeting, adjourned at 2:27 PM (MT)/ 3:27 PM (CT).

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

9 March 2023 – Arrowwood Resort and Conference

Center at Cedar Shore, Oacoma, SD



Call to order – Brady Neiles 9:07 AM CST

Recognize a quorum; recognize Parliamentary, Quorum present and confirmed

Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting – Melissa Greenwalt

Motion to approve: Jennifer Briggs, Second: Daniel Kim, All in favor: Approved, motion passes.

Annual Treasurer's Report – Melissa Greenwalt

Motion to approve: Hilary Morey, Second: Amanda Cheeseman, All in favor: Approved, motion passes.

Information on voting members:

As of today, there are 153 voting members.

Old Business

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections – Brady Neiles

Comments from the Candidates, Casting of the Ballots, Mark Norton unanimous ballot, second Pete Bauman. Motion passes.

Audit – Julie Lindstrom

Audit completed 3/7/2023 with Past-President Lindstrom, President Neiles, and Secretary/Treasurer Greenwalt. Accounts record satisfactory.

Awards – Nathan Baker

Review from Nathan of the types of awards presented at the annual meeting and purchases for those awards.

Conservation Review – Mark Norton

Education and Information – Vacant, no report

Membership – Chuck Pyle, Melissa Greenwalt updated on current membership list of 153 active members.

Program – Daniel Kim, all planning completed, thank you to our speakers!!

Resolutions and Public Statements – Vacant, no report

Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Brady Neiles, thank you to Cedar Shores for working with us to put together a great event!

Certification – Eileen Dowd Stukel, no changes to report.

SDSU Chapter update – Alexandra Johnson, President

Suggestion from Pete Bauman to help facilitate more communication to the chapter, suggested to work with chapter advisor Severud to get students engaged in active training/opportunities.

Bill

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll, Julie Lindstrom will assist, Brady Neiles will work to digitize.

Energy – KC Jensen submitted, read by Hilary Morey

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom, no report

Fundraising – Brady Neiles, appreciate all our sponsors for their help in facilitating a great event. Dennie Mann can help put the committee in touch with sponsors. Ben Lardy to co-chair and Melissa Greenwalt as a member. Discussion of how to apply for funding from the chapter: SDTWS website > Funding Requests. Suggestion to solicit requests for funding on a regular basis, maybe through the newsletter.

Grassland Issues – Boyd Schulz/Jim Madsen/Joel Murano/Pete Bauman

Pete Bauman provided updates, including aims to collaborate more directly with NRCS with expansion of Farm Bill program and allocations to the agency for climate smart practices.

Mentorship Program – Eric Magedanz

Mentorship program available – 10 mentors to date, 10 mentees. Contact Eric if interested. Will work to get that information on the website.

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

Maybe need a motion to dissolve the committee in New Business.

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

Please share stories, updates on your work, photos! Special thank you to Dennie Mann for continuing to provide great photos!

Public Lands – Chuck Berdan, Chuck Berdan is resigning from chair, position open.

Dennie Mann updated regarding the new camping area in Badlands National Park. Would like to get rid of dispersed camping area. Comment to remove camping in this area, as this is heavily used by bighorn sheep. Solution proposed was to create paths/trails for ATVs, so will not eliminate disturbance.

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer, no report

Wetlands – Randy Meidinger, no report

Wildlife Diseases – Steve Griffin, read by Melissa Greenwalt

Updates on Hemorrhagic Disease, Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring, and monitoring and assistance for Avian Influenza. Full report from Steve will be emailed out to members.

Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel, Casey Heimerl, Silka Kempema: Casey provided updates. Report will be emailed out to the membership.

****See Committee Reports following end of business meeting minutes.**

Other Reports:

Election Results – Brady Neiles and Daniel Kim

William Severud – Executive Board member

Mandy Pearson (Ensrud) – Sec/Treasurer

Dennie Mann – President-Elect

Other Old Business

New Business

- Approval of New Members: Four new life members, 27 new chapter members

New Life Members: #60 Josh Stafford, #61 Brian Pauly, #62 Kristel Bakker, #63 Dennie Mann

New Members: Alex Elias, Amy Hammesfahr, Brittany Esparza, , Chelsi Marolf, Derek Hartl, Drake Laverack, Eric Landmark, Jaci Baker, Jacob Wolfe, James Noble, Jayd Chmela, Jennifer Buchanan, Jennifer Murphy, Jessica Jurzenski, Jessica Speiser, Justin Enfield, Keaton Johnson, , Kendall Hettick, Kylie Sinclair, Madeline Gay, Peter Bergmann, Ryan Wendlinger, Sarah Hayden, Shayla Kelly, Stephanie Ferrero, Taylor Sutton, Trent Walrod, Tyler Rafter

Motion to approve new members: Dennie Mann, Second: Corey Huxoll, Motion passed.

Meeting site/dates for the 2024 Annual Meeting

- Will be joined by CMPS, which will add approximately 50 attendees. Board has considered moving the meeting to The Lodge in Deadwood to accommodate the members attending from the western states.
 - Ramkota owns The Lodge in Deadwood, would be approximately 30% less than costs in Rapid City.
- Have also been approached by John Kanta to combine with the USFWS-WAFWA meeting. Cost of approximately \$400 to attend if combined. Expecting 600 to attend. Would be hosted in Sioux Falls.
 - Would have a banquet and business meeting only.
 - Discussion of logistics, costs associated with this option. Issues with attendance if meetings dates are close together.
 - Will put together a poll for the membership.

Other New Business

- Registration issues with website rebuild through TWS.
 - Possibility of hosting registration and/or website through another entity.
 - Create a form for registration so the form can be completed all in one go. Need to look into security for payments and personal information.
 - Suggestion to create a committee to manage website. Add that in under education and information – Julie Lindstrom to head the committee.
- Review of committee vacancies
 - Julie Lindstrom provided information regarding standing committees as required by the by-laws versus special committees which have been added over time as needed.
 - Vacant committees:
 - Resolutions and Public Statements (Standing Committee): suggested to place under Conservation Review. Will require a change in by-laws. Leave as is for now.
 - Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife (Special Committee): no report for several years
 - Motion to dissolve: Julie Lindstrom; Second: Mandy Ensrud
 - Approved, motion passes, committee dissolved.
 - Missouri River Issues (Special Committee):
 - Motion: Ben Lardy; Second: Dan Kim
 - Approved, motion passes, committee dissolved.
 - Public Lands (Special Committee): vacant
 - Tribal Fish & Wildlife: inactive, looking for another chair
 - Wetlands (Special Committee):
 - Group did not wish to remove, but would like to merge with Grasslands Committee
 - Motion to merge: Ben Lardy; Second: Julie Lindstrom
 - Approved, motion passes, Grassland and Wetland Issues committees merged.
 - Julie Lindstrom brought forward the issue of inactive committee chairs. Discussion of how to address this—should the board replace these individuals? Agreed if no response received when asking for the annual report, executive board will request to replace this person with another individual.

Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Daniel Kim

Presentation of Past-President Plaque—Julie Lindstrom presented the plaque to Brady Neiles.

Motion to adjourn at 10:58 AM CST by Dan Svingen. **Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM CST.**

Submitted by Melissa Greenwalt, Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Reports

Awards Committee – Nathan Baker

Three nominations were received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, and two nominations were received for the Citizens Wildlife Award. We also received one nomination for the M.S. student of the year award and one nomination for the Ph.D. student award, which is offered every other year. Awards will be presented after the keynote speaker during the annual banquet. Student and open presentation award plaques were again procured, as was one for our outgoing chapter president.

We also have four new SDTWS Life Members: #58 Joshua Stafford, #59 Brian Pauly, #60 Kristel Bakker, #61 Dennie Mann

Missouri River Issues Committee – Nathan Baker

Nothing to report – Would recommend dissolving this committee.

Conservation Review & Conservation Affairs Committee

As described in the SDTWS Chapter bylaws, the Conservation Review Committee is charged with reviewing legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and NEPA related documents affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat in South Dakota and making recommendations to the Executive Board regarding possible action by the Board or Chapter. Current members of the committee include Paul Coughlin, Matt Morlock, Bob Hodorff, Hilary Morey, and Mark Norton.

Conservation Affairs Network:

In 2014, the Chapter's Executive Board tasked the Conservation Review Committee to serve as the Chapter's representative to parent chapter's Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). The CAN was launched in early 2014 and serves to engage and unify efforts by chapters, sections, and the parent Chapter in wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. The CAN is a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters important to wildlife professionals. 2022 Conservation Review Committee Activities: In 2022, the conservation review committee shared updates with the membership on opportunities to contact U.S. legislators in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The conservation review committee also continues to participate in the Conservation Affairs Network.

A few topics on the Conservation Affairs Network's radar over the past year include:

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act - The Conservation Affairs network, along with numerous other TWS chapter and section units, has become fully engaged in support and advocacy for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

- Federal budgets and appropriations

- State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

- Endangered Species Act listings of Lesser Prairie Chicken populations and northern long-eared bat

- Proposed Rule changes to the Bald & Gold Eagle Protection Act to increase participation in the permitting process for wind energy projects, powerline infrastructure, disturbance of breeding eagles, and bald eagle nest take.

- North American Grassland Conservation Act

The Wildlife Society recently set four policy priorities for 2023 through 2025.

1. Advance efforts to enact adequate federal funding for U.S. state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to effectively perform at-risk species conservation work.
2. Support adequate funding for U.S. federal land management efforts, with emphasis placed on operations and maintenance accounts within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System.
3. Work to ensure adequate resources and implementation on private lands conservation programs within the 2023 Farm Bill and associated private lands conservation programs in the annual appropriations process.
4. Empower TWS Section, Chapter, and Working Group engagement with renewable energy policy through the development of Conservation Affairs Network resources and communications.

The Executive Board and Chapter membership are encouraged to engage and utilize the Committee as a resource for addressing legislative, policy, and environmental issues affecting South Dakota wildlife and their habitats, and take full advantage of resources available through the Conservation Affairs Network, accessible on the TWS website.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Norton, Chair

Newsletter Committee - Jennifer Briggs

Purpose of the Committee (your opinion or perception) - To put together a quarterly newsletter with a President's message, Executive Board Meeting Minutes, any information that the committees have to share, and upcoming events. I am always open to new ideas, suggestions, edits, criticisms, etc to enhance the newsletter. We have a section titled "Notes from the Field" to get members to share news and stories about their work experiences.

The SDTWS newsletter is sent out on a quarterly basis. Contents consist of a President's Message, Executive Board Meeting Minutes, TWS news, membership information, executive board contact info, and much more. Some highlights for this year.... "*Notes from Dennie Mann*" – Dennie graciously shares his photos of bighorn sheep, elk, wolves, etc from his travels to Yellowstone National Park, the Badlands, as well as the Black Hills. He also provides a little write up of the area and field conditions. "*Notes from the Field*" – this section highlights projects, ideas, etc from our own members. Any thoughts, ideas, suggestions for the newsletter are welcome.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conducted surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in South Dakota during the period of July 1, 2022 through February 01, 2023. This resulted in the testing of 382 elk, 81 mule deer (MD) and 500 white-tailed deer (WTD), for a total of 963 samples. Most of the elk sampling involved collection of heads at drop off locations from hunter harvested animals from the Black Hills. Most deer collections were from hunter harvested deer. South Dakota now has identified CWD in 20 counties within the state. This past year, CWD was found in Union County in the SE part of the state.

Test results received on 963 samples indicate 23 WTD, 11 MD, and 10 elk were CWD positive. The total number of CWD positive animals discovered in South Dakota since the first free ranging white-tailed deer was found in the fall of 2001 is now 707, including 297 white-tailed deer, 269 elk, and 141 mule deer. Since 1997, a total of 33,844 deer and elk have been tested for CWD.

GFP continues to collect voluntary hunter harvest samples in high surveillance areas to determine the advancement of CWD in SD, and collects any voluntary hunter harvested cervid samples from anywhere in SD. GFP is currently conducting research on CWD in the elk population in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Additionally, GFP continues to send in any suspect animals from across the state for testing. For more information on CWD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease/>

Hemorrhagic Disease: The state of South Dakota experienced a relatively minor mortality event of mainly white-tailed deer during August-October 2022 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHDV) and/or Blue Tongue (BTV). The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) received reports of sick and deceased white-tailed deer, mule deer, and pronghorn during the summer and fall of 2022. As in previous years with mortality in the summer months, EHDV was suspected, and efforts were made to document the virus through the Diagnostic Lab at South Dakota State University. Through laboratory testing, confirmation was received that EHDV or BTV was present in 17 white-tailed deer, 4 pronghorn, and 3 mule deer. GFP investigated many sick and dead ungulates that would be associated with EHDV/BTV.

Twenty-one counties from across South Dakota had suspected, reported, or confirmed EHDV or BTV virus in white-tailed deer, mule deer, and pronghorn. Statewide, a total of 208 dead or sick animals were recorded in 2022, which included 194 white-tailed deer, 10 pronghorn, and 4 mule deer. In comparison, 1,639 cases of EHDV or BTV were reported in South Dakota in 2021.

Due to a suspected large number of white-tailed deer that were being lost to the disease, GFP removed some unsold licenses (128 licenses: 256 tags) from Meade County for the West River Deer Season. In addition, GFP offered refunds to hunters who wished to return licenses for any reason. In 2022, a total of 709 licenses were returned which equated to a total of 936 tags.

For more information on EHD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are contagious and extremely variable viruses that are widespread in birds. Several avian species during the 2022 outbreak of HPAI appeared to be quite susceptible and transmission of the virus was quite high. Unlike past outbreaks of HPAI, wild birds appeared to be more susceptible and exhibit clinical symptoms and mortality. The most recent outbreak of avian influenza mortality has been occurring in South Dakota since March of 2022 and there were basically 2 mortality events during the spring of 2022 in which migratory waterfowl were migrating north, and in the fall/winter of 2022/2023 in which waterfowl were migrating south.

As HPAI mortality in South Dakota is still an ongoing event, the following information should be considered preliminary in nature. South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB) confirmed HPAI in commercial flocks. GFP, in conjunction with other agencies such as the USGS National Wildlife Health Center and USDA Wildlife Services, have confirmed HPAI in wild bird species primarily in eastern South Dakota with a few reports in western South Dakota.

On March 5, 2022, (spring outbreak) HPAI was confirmed in a commercial mixed flock in Charles Mix County, South Dakota. This occurred at the beginning of the northerly snow goose migration in South Dakota. HPAI has since hit multiple commercial facilities in South Dakota. As an example, in early 2022, there were 44 total commercial turkey facilities in South Dakota. As a result of HPAI, a total of 34 of these facilities were depopulated with an estimated 1.6 million birds being euthanized. One backyard mixed facility was also depopulated. Additionally, one depopulated commercial facility also had 3,500 pheasants and as a precaution, destroyed these birds. Another commercial upland game producer had to depopulate 1,400 pheasants.

Regarding wild bird mortalities in the spring of 2022, GFP and federal agencies confirmed HPAI in Canada geese, snow geese, ross geese, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, great horned owl and lesser scaup in multiple areas of eastern South Dakota. All positive results were confirmed as H5N1 through the National Vet Science Lab (NVSL). Additionally, GFP recorded and estimated approximately 77 mortality events in which samples were not collected. These events include the following totals: 1,717 snow geese, 344 Canada geese, 10 bald eagles, 8 red-tailed hawks, 7 various duck species, 4 snowy owls, 1 great horned owl, and 2 pelicans. Total reported mortality numbers during the spring migration period were estimated at 2,093 birds with many more suspected of dying.

During the 2022 fall snow goose migration, large numbers of dead and dying waterfowl were reported in South Dakota. Additionally, commercial facilities reported loss of birds. An exact number of commercial facilities that lost birds during the fall outbreak is unknown at this time, but as of December 2022, HPAI was confirmed in 60 commercial poultry facilities, 1 waterfowl breeding facility, and 14 backyard poultry flocks. In 2022, more than 3.8 million commercial poultry were impacted by HPAI in South Dakota.

Wild bird mortalities during the fall of 2022 were documented by GFP and federal agencies. HPAI was again confirmed in Canada geese, snow geese, ross geese, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, in addition to turkey vulture, several duck species, common crow, and pelican throughout multiple areas of mainly eastern South Dakota. Western South Dakota also experienced a die-off of mainly Canada geese in late December 2022 and early January 2023. All positive results were confirmed as H5N1 through NVSL. Additionally, GFP recorded 71 mortality events during which samples were not collected but were suspected as HPAI mortalities. These events include the following totals: 23,133 snow geese, 940 Canada geese, 22 various duck species, 4 swans, and 2 red-tailed hawks. Total reported mortality numbers are estimated at 24,100 birds with many more suspected of dying.

GFP continues to work with the AIB, USDA-APHIS, and other management agencies to monitor and respond to additional outbreaks of HPAI. Throughout the year, GFP, in cooperation with USDA-APHIS, were assisting commercial turkey farms by providing technical assistance and deterrent supplies for poultry owners to keep migrating waterfowl and other wildlife away from their operations.

Visit gfp.sd.gov/avian-flu/ to learn more about HPAI.

Energy Committee Annual Report

Chair: Hilary Morey (SDGFP)

Members: Pete Bauman (SDSU Extension), Jill Shaffer (USGS), Natalie Gates (USFWS)

The Charge of this Committee is to: *Serve as a clearinghouse for information on all forms of energy development that have an impact on wildlife resources of South Dakota. Keep the membership updated on energy development projects including, wind farms, biofuels, oil and gas. Work with the SDTWS board and membership to compose comment letters and position statements related to energy developments impacts on wildlife as needed.*

Current proposed energy projects in South Dakota:

Wind Energy

- Five proposed wind facilities within the state
 - o No active state level permit applications
 - o 2 proposals have WAPA interconnection
- Wind energy proposals and development has been slow the last 3 years; Only two facilities permitted by the state from January 2020-January 2023
- Some of the regional transmission lines are at or near capacity, so until that is fixed, development may continue to be slow
- SDSU Extension has released a guide related to energy development and reclamation of native grasslands: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2020-09/P-00184.pdf>
 - o Recent Peer-reviewed Literature:
 - § Publication by Pearse et al. 2021 indicates that whooping cranes avoid wind energy infrastructure during migration (<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/eap.232>)
 - § Jill Shaffer and colleagues also recently published a “how-to” on their avian-impact offset method that was developed from their research on indirect impacts to wildlife from wind energy development
 - Shaffer, J.A., Loesch, C.R., and Buhl, D.A., 2022, Understanding the Avian-Impact Offset Method—A tutorial: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2022–1049, 227 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr2022104>.
- SDGFP has partnered with Western Ecosystems Technology (WEST) Inc. and Scout Clean Energy to complete a Before-After-Control-Impact study on Sharp-tailed grouse habitat use at a wind facility in Hand County. Two years of pre-construction data have been collected and construction is due to start in Winter/Spring 2023.
- Discussions during the AFWA Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee bi-annual meeting about working towards updating the USFWS Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines to include relevant peer-reviewed literature.
 - o Current guidelines were published in 2012, and lots of new research on impacts of wind, ways to avoid and minimize impacts, etc. has emerged since then

Solar Energy

- No active solar energy proposals, but there has been interest
- One 80 MW facility is planned for Fall River County
 - o Unsure on status of this project
- Two utility scale solar (>100 mega watts) facilities permitted in South Dakota in 2020
 - o Neither is built yet
- Cost of solar is decreasing, and there is increasing interest in South Dakota for new projects
- Wildlife impacts of solar energy are not as well understood as wind energy impacts
 - o Most research and monitoring has taken place in CA and the desert southwest
- Potential for bird collisions (e.g. “lake effect” hypothesis)
- Habitat conversion or fragmentation would likely be the largest impact
 - o Recent peer-reviewed literature:
 - A summary of bird mortality at photovoltaic utility scale solar facilities in the Southwestern US. Kosciuch et al. 2020. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.023203>

Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Facility

- Proposed by Missouri River Energy Services in Gregory County, SD
- Originally proposed in the 1980’s
- Very preliminary stages; primarily information gathering by the proponent
- Open-loop system where water is pumped from Lake Francis-Case to a constructed reservoir above Francis-Case and stored
- During periods of low energy generation on the regional power grid, water can be released from the upper reservoir to generate electricity, essentially operating like a battery
- Project is subject to licensing from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- FERC licensing isn’t anticipated until 2028, with construction potentially beginning in 2029 if the project stays on schedule
- For more information on the project and timeline: <https://www.gregoryhydro.com>

Carbon Capture Pipelines

- Currently 2 proposed Carbon Capture Pipelines in eastern South Dakota
- Both project proponents have filed their applications with the Public Utilities Commission
- Evidentiary hearings will occur in Late July and in mid-September
- Projects propose to capture carbon dioxide that is a by-product of ethanol production, liquify the carbon dioxide and transport it via buried pipeline for injection into suitable geologic formations (ND and IL)
- <https://summitcarbonsolutions.com/>
- <https://heartlandgreenway.com>
- Potential wildlife impacts are likely greatest during construction phase
- Additional concern over impacts of a leak or break and what effects it could have on wildlife, specifically if a break occurred near a waterbody

Dewey-Burdock Project- In-Situ Recovery Uranium Mine

- Located near Edgemont, South Dakota
- Project was proposed ~10 years ago but was postponed at the state level due to the applicant needing to secure federal permits from the US EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- SDDANR has jurisdiction over state mine permitting and water rights permitting
- Project recently resurfaced after federal approvals were obtained
- For more information see: <https://deweyburdock.info>

Mineral Exploration in the Black Hills

- Gold, bentonite, limestone, lithium and other critical minerals are actively mined in the Black Hills
- Nationally, critical mineral exploration is gaining interest due to the shift to renewables, battery storage innovations, etc.
- A number of new exploration projects have been proposed:
 - o Company plans 260 new exploratory holes in search of Black Hills gold | SDP
 - o No new mining activities at Gilt Edge Mine for time being | Local News | bhpioneer.co
 - o Draft Decision Notice issued for proposed Jenny Gulch Gold Exploration Drilling Project - KNBN NewsCenter
 - o Southern hills mining exploration is hoping to find gold in the Black Hills (kotatv.com)
 - o Solitario Zinc Corp. begins gold exploration in Northern Hills | Local News | bhpioneer.co
 - o Renewed interest in Black Hills lithium mining draws attention (kotatv.com)

Other news:

- SDSU extension has completed a native lands inventory database, which will be a helpful tool for energy siting (to be presented at the 2023 TWS Chapter Meeting)
- SDGFP's Prairie Grouse Management Plan update contains a ranking system for energy developers to indicate how well they avoided or minimized potential impacts to prairie grouse
- Recent peer-reviewed paper: Shaffer, J.A., Niemuth, N.D., Loesch, C.R., Derby, C.E., Pearse, A.T., Barnes, K.W., Shaffer, T.L., and Ryba, A.J. 2022. Limited land base and competing land uses force societal tradeoffs when siting energy development. Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management; e1944-687X. <https://doi.org/10.3996/JFWM-21-03>.
 - o This paper evaluates whether the development of renewable energy can be compatible with the conservation of avian habitat using a model that predicts where conflict (and thus tradeoffs) are likely to occur over a project area encompassing North Dakota, South Dakota, and the grasslands portions of Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa. The model inputs for avian habitat focused on the highest-quality breeding habitat for five species of passerines and five species of dabbling ducks, based on previous models developed from the USFWS. The highest-quality migratory habitat for the Whooping Crane also was included, again based on previous models developed from the USFWS.
- Committee member Jill Shaffer has a presentation available related to the paper mentioned above and the Avian-Impact offset Method if others within TWS are interested in learning more

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Recovering America's Wildlife Act: This legislation would provide stable, long-term funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to benefit the full array of species and related native habitats. For state agencies, funding would aid in the implementation of state wildlife action plans, which are strategic planning documents to help states meet their full array of responsibilities. South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan can be reviewed here: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-action-plan>

Despite a widespread and coordinated approach, this legislation did not pass in 2022. Bills will be reintroduced in the U.S. House and Senate this session. Current efforts include lining up sponsors in both houses, in particular the U.S. Senate. Our chapter has been an active proponent on this effort. That push will continue in 2023 to hopefully bring about the support of our senators and representative and passage of this important wildlife funding bill.

South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan: This focus of Recovering funding in South Dakota recently underwent a minor revision that resulted in the addition of 32 plant species and 28 additional animal species of greatest conservation need. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has begun a major revision of the Plan, which is required at least every ten years. The species lists will receive additional scrutiny. All aspects of the revision will be available for public review, with special attention to coordination with agencies responsible for significant land management and tribal fish and wildlife agencies.

Northern long-eared bat: This species was reclassified from federal threatened to endangered in November 2022 due to the continued threat of white-nose syndrome. This rule will go into effect on March 31, 2023. Additional species are in various stages of review for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act,

including the monarch butterfly, currently a candidate for federal listing. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believes listing this species remains warranted, they expect to publish a proposed listing rule this-coming November.

Revision of Field Guide to Butterflies of South Dakota: This out of print guide has been revised by Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and author Gary Marrone to produce a second edition covering 180 species known to occur in the state. GFP is currently soliciting print bids for a limited quantity that will be available for sale on the agency's website.

Great Plains Bumble Bee Atlas began during 2022 for North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas. For more information, visit: <https://www.bumblebeeatlas.org/greatplainsbba.html> or contact Service biologist Dan Kim (daniel_kim@fws.gov).

Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist Hired: GFP hired its first Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist in 2022. Jen Buchanan (Jen.Buchanan@state.sd.us) serves the needs of western South Dakota from the GFP Rapid City Regional Office. Jen's background is primarily in herpetology. She completed her M.S. degree at Emporia State University in Kansas on mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) diet. Besides serving as a state herpetologist, Jen will work on state listed species in the Black Hills, including Osprey and American Dippers, as well as help private landowners and habitat staff with wildlife diversity considerations.

Black-footed Ferret: This Abstract is from the following report:

Livieri, T. M. 2023. Conata Basin/Badlands National Park Black-footed Ferret Monitoring Report

Summer/Fall 2022. Report submitted to the US Forest Service – Wall Ranger District, Badlands National Park, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Prairie Wildlife Research, Stevens Point, WI.

Abstract: Black-footed ferret populations in Conata Basin and Badlands National Park, South Dakota are surveyed annually to determine population size, distribution, conduct research, vaccinate, and translocate animals to new sites. Surveys in summer/fall 2022 covered 15,161.5 acres of prairie dog colonies from August-November with 1,081.5 spotlight hours. The number of unique individual ferrets identified by microchip was 190 and 96% were vaccinated against plague with at least one shot. The minimum number alive was 197 black-footed ferrets based upon the location of 7 unidentified individuals plus the 190 identified animals. No animals were removed from the population and 1 kit was translocated within Conata Basin/Badlands National Park. Spotlight effort was sufficient to find a high percentage of the ferret population. The ratio of kits:adults was 1.35:1, which was different than the even ratio observed in 2021 and lower than 2:1 observed in 2020. Overall the black-footed ferret population increased by 41% from 2021 to 2022. Using 'missed' animals and unchipped adults, the minimum number alive estimate for 2021 was adjusted from 140 to 166 animals. Preliminary analysis of a multi-year data set of re-encounter rates in fipronil grain areas suggest no major effects and continued evaluations are needed.

Black-tailed prairie dog: Using aerial images taken in 2020 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, GFP staff again mapped the distribution and acreage of prairie dog colonies in South Dakota. This is done approximately every 3-5 years as directed in the state's conservation and management plan for the species. The plan identifies two acreage goals: statewide (199,472 acres; 80,723.5 ha) and non-tribal (166,958 acres; 67,565.5 ha) colony acreage goals. Changes in state management of this species are influenced by the results of this survey. This Executive Summary is from the following final report, which was completed in November 2022. The report is available on the GFP website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/prairiedogmappingreport.pdf>

Kempema, S. L. F., R. Scott, and J. M. Weidler. 2022. Colony acreage and distribution of the black-tailed prairie dog in South Dakota, 2020. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Division Report Number 2022-04, Pierre, South Dakota USA.

Executive Summary: We documented 422,548 acres (170, 999 ha) of black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) colonies in 31 counties in South Dakota by visually interpreting aerial images within a GIS. Total colony acreage in 2020 was divided by landownership as follows: 119,333 acres (48,292 ha) on tribal lands and 303,215 acres (122,706 ha) on non-tribal land. The statewide (199,472 acres; 80,723.5 ha) and non-tribal (166,958 acres; 67,565.5 ha) colony acreage goals set forth in the state prairie dog conservation and management plan (Cooper and Gabriel 2005) were achieved in 2020, thus no changes in current management action are required.

Wildlife Restoration Award: This national award from The Wildlife Society recognizes outstanding projects funded by Wildlife Restoration dollars, also known as Pittman-Robertson funds. GFP biologists Travis Runia and Alex Solem and Service biologist Kevin Barnes were co-winners of the 2022 award for their project: Spatially explicit habitat-based occupancy models for prairie grouse in South Dakota. The Wildlife Restoration Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2023 award, with nominations due by May 1, 2023. Committee member Eileen Dowd Stukel (Eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us) can help address questions about the criteria and nomination process.

Report submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel, Silka Kempema, Casey Heimerl, and Jen Buchanan.

Wildlife Diversity Committee

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT REINTRODUCED TO U.S. SENATE

April 3, 2023 by Brandy Wible

The bipartisan wildlife legislation would provide unprecedented conservation funding.

Senators Martin Heinrich (D–NM) and Thom Tillis (R–NC) reintroduced the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act late last week in the U.S. Senate.

The bill would provide nearly \$1.4 billion in dedicated funding annually for states and Tribes to conserve more than 12,000 at-risk species in the U.S.

The legislation, long endorsed by The Wildlife Society, would support deployment of State Wildlife Action Plans, which provide a roadmap for conservation actions aimed at addressing at-risk species population declines. Further, the legislation would provide Tribal nations with a first-of-its-kind funding stream to keep common species common and address threats against species currently at-risk.

"I'm proud of the momentum and widespread bipartisan support we built with Senator Blunt last Congress, and I look forward to doing the same with Senator Tillis as we work to move this bill across the finish line," said Senator Heinrich upon reintroduction. "Without enough resources, state and Tribal wildlife agencies have been forced to pick and choose which species are worth saving. Instead of doing the proactive work that is necessary to maintain healthy wildlife populations on the front end, they have been forced into using reactive measures to rescue species after they are listed as threatened or endangered."

The newly reintroduced version of Recovering America's Wildlife Act is similar to the bill passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last year. Discussions are ongoing to determine an appropriate funding mechanism for the legislation and will be considered as the bill moves through the Senate.

"The Wildlife Society and our members thank Senators Heinrich and Tillis for their diligence in supporting America's wildlife professionals and the species they protect," said Caroline Murphy, government relations manager at The Wildlife Society. "We look forward to working with congressional offices to advance language that would provide a clear path forward to ensure financial certainty for states and Tribes."

In the coming weeks, check out TWS' take action page for updates and opportunities to engage in efforts to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. We will also be updating TWS membership through the Conservation Affairs Network on opportunities for engagement with this legislation."

SD Chapter activities: Mark Norton coordinated the preparation of Chapter letters to Senators Thune and Rounds asking for their support for the bill. Letters were submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

Wildlife Diversity Committee (continued)

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks recently published a revised edition of the “Field Guide to South Dakota Butterflies.” The second edition includes five new species added to the state's list since 2002. Also included are numerous new county records to the species distribution maps and several changes to common and scientific names. The guide provides an account for each of the 180 species of butterflies known to occur in the state. Details on each species include a description of the adult and caterpillar, as well as information on distribution, habitat, larval host plants, and nectar sources. Maps showing distribution by county for each species are also included. This guide includes more than 700 color photographs, as well as a butterfly checklist, butterfly calendar, hypothetical list of species, glossary, and reference list. Copies are \$60.00, shipping included. To purchase copies, please call 605-223.7662. You can view the full list of books available from SDGFP at this site: <https://gfp.sd.gov/pages/gifts/>

SDGFP has begun a second major revision of the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-action-plan/> The revision will include revisiting the species of greatest conservation need list, review of conservation opportunity areas, better alliance with planning and implementation methods used by other midwestern states, and an emphasis on making the revised plan more user-friendly and more relevant to conservation partners. Information about the process will be shared on the SDGFP website.

Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP Wildlife Diversity Coordinator

SDTWS Mentoring Program

I would like to remind everyone of a great opportunity through the SDTWS that is available for both professionals and aspiring professionals alike. The SDTWS Mentoring Program was launched in the fall of 2019 and has had 10 mentors and 10 mentees sign up to be involved.



This program was designed to connect professionals with nonprofessionals as well as professionals with professionals who seek guidance and constructive feedback to aid in the aspects of career direction and opportunities, professional and academic advice, and fostering networking relationships.

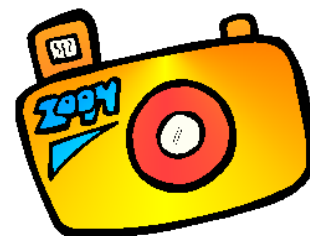
The SDTWS board will connect mentees with appropriate mentors. We encourage all that are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee to please email Eric Magedanz at eric.magedanz@state.sd.us.

Notes From the Field...

- SDTWS is looking to highlight projects that students and wildlife professionals are working on.
- If you have a project or story to share—please contact Jennifer Briggs or one of the Executive Board members.
We look forward to sharing your story.



PHOTO CONTEST



We know our members have great pictures from their outside adventures including landscapes, hunting, outdoor recreation, and flora/fauna. We would like to showcase your pictures during a photo contest at this year's annual meeting.

Entry fee: \$5 per photo—no limit on number of entries

Size: 8x10 attached to 10x12 black cardboard / foam board mat

- Photos can be submitted prior to the meeting to any board member or can be brought to the annual meeting
- Winner will be chosen by popular vote at 2024 Annual Meeting & receive 50% of the entry fees.
- The winning photo will be displayed on the SDTWS website and will be made into a canvas to be auctioned off at 2025 annual meeting.



SDTWS Executive Board 2023

President

[Daniel Kim](#)

USFWS

Pierre, SD 57501

Secretary-Treasurer

[Mandy Pearson](#)

SDGFP

Rapid City, SD

Past-President

[Brady Neiles](#)

13329 US-16A

Custer, SD 57730

Board Member

[Amanda Cheeseman](#)

SDSU

Brookings, SD 57007

President-Elect

[Dennie Mann](#)

1527 Single Tree Dr

Piedmont, SD 57769

Board Member

[Bill Severud](#)

SDSU

Brookings, SD

Grant Opportunities



The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society offers a Student Travel Grant to help pay for attending a national or state TWS Annual Conference. The Chapter also offers a Student Membership Sponsorship Grant which will cover student annual dues for membership into TWS if you are a student board member of a Student Chapter of TWS in South Dakota. For more information of how to apply for either grant, click [here](#).



SDTWS Life Members

Doug Alvine
Galen Burgett
Eddie Childers
Mary Clawson
Charles Dieter
Lester Flake
Kurt Forman
Andy Gabbert
Dave Gilbert
Steve Griffin
Troy Grovenburg
Bob Hodorff
Harris Hoistad
Earl Hyink
Warren Jackson
Jonathan Jenks
John Kelley
Colleen Kolbeck
Rolf Kraft
Thomas Kuck
Scott Larson
Thomas LeFaive

Tony Leif
John Leisner
Jesse Lisburg
Kevin Luebke
Carl Madsen
Will Morlock
Glenn Moravek
Jay Peterson
Erling Podoll
Chuck Pyle
Greg Schenbeck
Boyd Schulz
Steve Spawn
Cara Staab
Dave Steffen
Eileen Dowd-Stukel
Joel Tigner
Tom Tornow
Ralph Town
Spencer Vaa
William Walker
Dave Azure

James Headley
Paul Mammenga
Silka Kempema
Julie Lindstrom
Larry Gigliotti
Paul Coughlin
Shelly Deisch
Chuck Berdan
Eric Pullis
Owen McElroy
Randy Meidinger
Drew Davis
Tom Kirschenmann
Michael Gutzmer
Bruce Toay
Joshua Stafford
Brian Pauly
Kristel Bakker
Dennie Mann

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: $25 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 25 = \250)

Age 36 to 45: $20 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 20 = \200)

Age 46 to 65: $17.5 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 17.5 = \175)

Age 66 to 75: $12.5 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 12.5 = \125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For More Information, Contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF TWS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

REPRESENTATIVES:

Northern Great Plains Working Group, Representative: Rocco Murano_ (605) 688-4786

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Past-President, Brady Neiles

Awards Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

Conservation Review Mark Norton (605) 773-3096

Education and Information Bruce Eichhorst (605) 688-4706

Membership Chuck Pyle

Nominations and Elections President, Julie DeJong

Program President Elect, Brady Neiles

Resolutions and Public Statements Paul Coughlin (605) 773-4194

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Arrangements President Elect, Dennie Mann

Certification: Eileen Dowd Stukel (605) 773-4229

Chapter History Corey Huxoll (605) 773-4195

Energy Committee Kent (KC) Jensen_(605) 688-4781

Fundraising **VACANT**

Grasslands & Wetland Issues: Randy Meidinger (605) 380-0380

Newsletter Jennifer Briggs (605) 256-2974

Public Lands Management **VACANT**

Tribal Fish and Wildlife: Mike Gutzmer (402) 562-9155

Wildlife Diseases Steve Griffin_(605) 394-6786

Wildlife Diversity Eileen Dowd Stukel (605) 773-4229 / Silka Kempema_(605) 773-2742

The South Dakota Chapter TWS Objectives are:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

To aid in the achievement of these objectives, the South Dakota Chapter proposes to:

- Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, their Section, and The Society.
- Evaluate and respond to the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
- Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats for wildlife.
- Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations.
- Encourage communication between members and nonmembers to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.
- Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted public or private actions that could affect wildlife and to make these evaluations known to the public and public officials.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership/Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (indicate home or work) _____

E-mail address (for newsletter delivery) _____

Employer: _____

Please note:

SDTWS's newsletter, A Prairie Voice, is all electronic. Therefore, an email address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an email address). Email is also the typical mode of communication concerning other SDTWS news.

Please check one: _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member

*If you did not renew your dues in 2023, you will be considered a new member in 2024 as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Please check box:

☐

By becoming a member of SD TWS, I support the Chapter's bylaws and objectives:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Mandy Pearson
t2314 S Fulton Street
Sturgis SD 57785

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues = \$250

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues = \$200

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues = \$175

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues = \$125

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.