

Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter

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Announcements

Make sure you vote for the officers of the North Central Section Before January 26th. You can get to know the candidates in their own words on page 9 and following

Don't forget to renew and pay your membership dues. Payments can be made online. Also, please recommend membership to your colleagues who want to take their professional development to the next level!

Consider attending this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference hosted for the first time in Sioux Falls SD. See more on Page 3.

We are hosting an excellent workshop at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as well. Read about it on Page 8!

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President's Message

Hello NCS TWS members! Happy Winter!

Winter is a season of enchantment, casting a serene and magical spell upon the world. As the first snowflakes delicately descend from the sky, the landscape transforms into a glistening wonderland, adorned in a pristine blanket of white. The crisp chill in the air invigorates the senses, and the subtle scent of woodsmoke wafts through the stillness. Trees stand gracefully adorned with icicles, and the world seems to hush in reverence to the peaceful beauty of the season. Cozy moments by the fireplace, the joyous laughter of children playing in the snow, and the warmth of hot cocoa all contribute to the charm of winter. It is a time when nature takes a graceful pause, inviting us to appreciate the quiet magnificence that blankets the world in a serene embrace. I also hope those of you who are hunters had a safe and successful season. I know a few states still have some seasons

going throughout the winter, so those of you lucky enough to keep getting out, enjoy! I'm looking forward to the start of ice fishing season, though I still get nervous even with 3 feet of ice underneath my feet!



The coming year has a lot in store for the Section. First and foremost, PLEASE VOTE! Our section elections are in this Newsletter, and we have a great slew of candidates to represent the Section! Your vote is critical to the future of the Section and TWS, so please click the link!

I am also excited to announce that Purdue Student Chapter will be hosting the (hopefully) annual Student Conclave this coming April! The student conclave is an excellent way for our future Wildlifers to learn essential field skills and network with their peers. I am very much looking forward to seeing the schedule of events and getting our students excited to bring this event back!

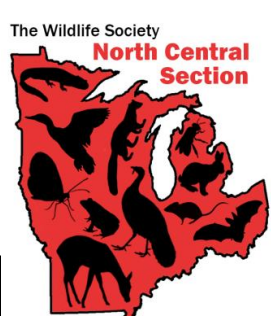
I wish all of you the best of the Holiday season and I look forward to an awesome year ahead as I hand off the presidency to Jeremy Holtz. Jeremy is going to do an awesome job leading us into 2024 and I look forward to the year to come!

Happy Winter and Happy Holidays,

Val Titus

President, NCS TWS

vtitus@paulsmiths.edu



Section Representative's Update

Dear North Central Section,

I hope you are well and enjoying time with friends and family during this holiday period.

I'm wrapping up my first year as your representative to Council and it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve and represent our Section. This year, I served on the Group Achievement Award, Fellows, Diversity, and Policy Committees at the Council-level. This coming year, I will be serving on the Fellows, Diversity, and Position Statements Committees. In addition, I'm now the Chair of the Policy Committee as well. Most of these committees will pick up with heavier workloads after March. Typically, many of them get to work immediately after the Annual TWS meeting, but Council is keeping the next several months cleared of typical committee work as we are "all hands on deck" to finalize the Strategic Planning efforts that began about a year ago. Specifically, I will be working on a Strategic Plan Sub-committee that is focused on Building Community in the context of the new vision and mission statements. Stay tuned! Please feel free to reach out to me about any needs or concerns, and especially if you have ideas related to the specific committees on which I serve.

I also want to update you on an effort initiated by Past-President Yasuda for getting potential recommendations and action items to Council. Specifically, he is asking myself and the other Section Representatives on Council to submit formal, 2-3 page reports to Council at each of our regular meetings. For those of you who might not know, Council has two regular meetings/year (one at the Annual TWS meeting and the other at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference) and a variety of other irregular meetings as special needs arise. One aspect of my Council report is simply a list of my activities (attending state meetings in our Section, North Central Executive Board meetings, etc.). The other aspect of this report is that it provides a mechanism for folks in our Section to put recommendations and potential action items forward for Council to consider. Due to the timing of the request and the due date of

the first report (end of September 2023), I worked with your state chapter Presidents and other members of the North Central Section Executive Board to identify recommendations and action items. I'm proud to say that we were the only Section who brought recommendations to Council! In the spirit of transparency, my report to Council is at the end of this update. We will have more time for state chapter Presidents to get input from state chapter members for the next report. You are always welcome to contact me directly as well! So, please be thinking of ideas and comments that you would like for me to put forward at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in March of 2024.

Cheers,

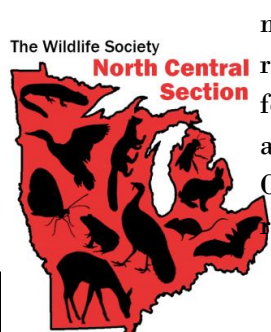
Jason Riddle



Looking ahead: 84th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Save These Dates! January 28 - 31, 2024

The Midwest attracts up to 1,000 biologists and students from state, federal, and tribal natural resources agencies and universities from the Midwest, Great Plains and Canadian provinces for the purposes of sharing technical presentations, poster displays, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities for wildlife professionals. Attendees include professionals in the field of fisheries and wildlife—directors, assistant directors, program managers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, as well as college students. This year's conference will be held in Sioux Falls, SD for the first time. More details are available at the website: <https://www.midwestfw.org/>



REPORT TO TWS COUNCIL

DATE: September 27, 2023

FROM: Jason Riddle, North Central Section Representative

SUBJECT: Section Representative Activities since November 2022 Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION(S) TO COUNCIL from the North Central Section:

1. The Ombud was greatly appreciated at last year's Annual Meeting. Please continue this practice into the future.
2. The past several years of Position Statement updates have been very efficient and have made good use of expertise from TWS members. Please continue the great work on the Position Statements Committee.
3. Many units continue to struggle to find the right insurance options. Could TWS Council and Staff provide an omnibus message to units that provides additional guidance regarding the proper amount, kinds, and appropriate costs of insurance that units should pursue? Or, is it possible for TWS to investigate working with providers at section-levels to develop an already vetted "TWS insurance package" that could be purchased by units?
4. Can TWS Council and Staff develop a basic training module for state chapters and sections on investments and the investment potential of unit financial resources?
5. Finally, the North Central Section is very excited about the potential for these Representative reports to empower ideas and elicit action items from members. If it appears that this practice will continue for the long-term, can we consider codifying this opportunity in some way?

Attendance at Special Events within the Section:

- 52nd Annual Winter Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. January 31-Feb 2, 2023 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.
- 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. February 12-15, 2023 in Overland Park, Kansas. (note that I did not attend the entire conference, just the first half).
- Ohio TWS Business and Planning Meeting on March 31, 2023. Virtual Attendance and Presentation.

Select Activities by month:

December 2022

- Served on Midwest Travel Grant Committee as part of my duties as Past-President of the North Central Section.
- North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 12/9/22

January 2023

- North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 1/6/23
- helped compile and communicate Wildlife Conference attendance tips to students in our section

February

- presented at Annual North Central Section Members Meeting on 2/13/23 at the 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.
- attended Special Council Meeting on 2/13/23.

March

- North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 3/17/23



Section updates

- Spring Council Meeting in St. Louis, MO on 3/19-3/20

April

-North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 4/21/23

July

-North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 7/21/23

August

-North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 8/18/23

September

-North Central Section Executive Board Meeting on 9/22/23

Council Committee Activity Highlights:

Awards Committee – We had several committee meetings about streamlining/standardizing the awards process for several TWS awards. I arranged and conducted interviews with the chairs of two, specific awards committees to gain insights from them and members of their committees regarding streamlining/standardization. I also helped with review, ranking, and selection of nominations for the Group Achievement Award.

Diversity Committee – I assisted in the review, ranking, and selection of applicants for DEI grants over the summer. I also met with Committee members to discuss the future of this Committee with regards to its efficiency and impact.

Fellows Committee – We had several committee meetings. I assisted in the review, ranking, and selection of nominations for TWS Fellows. As part of our special summer charge, Representative Kathy Granillo and I worked together to develop an annotated timeline of the history of the Fellows Program.

Policy Committee – We met a couple of times to help draft and develop the TWS Policy Priorities at the federal level for the current Congress. Those priorities were approved at the Council Meeting in March.

Other Activities:

-dialogue with several members regarding the lack of females in TWS Leadership positions at the parent organization level

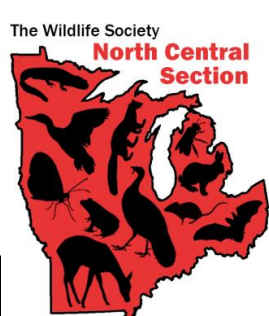
- dialogue with members of the Section about incorporating Codes of Conduct into working groups

- dialogue regarding a Code of Conduct document (not the same as above) being developed in our Section

- dialogue with members of the Section about incorporating an Ombud into State Chapter and/or Midwest Fish and Wildlife meetings

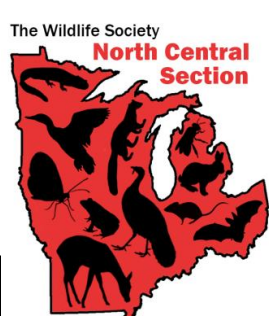
- dialogue with members of the Section about TWS awards and the selection criteria

-continue to participate in our Section's Membership Committee. We met several times over the year and have developed a second pilot program that offers a trial, free membership for students in our section.



North Central Section TWS Treasurer's Report – 12/10/2023

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society				
Treasurer's Report				
05/10/23 - 10/20/23				
CHECKING				
Beginning Balance as of 05/10/2023			\$7,594.04	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
7/11/23	transfer to prof dev	\$939.04		
7/14/23	Holtz reimbursement	\$989.05		
7/14/23	CEO sponsorship	\$500.00		
10/6/23	2nd Quarter Dues		\$550.00	
10/16/23	3rd Quarter Dues		\$770.00	
	Subtotal	\$2,428.09	\$1,320.00	
Ending Balance				\$6,485.95
SAVINGS				
Beginning Balance			\$1,600.59	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
5/31/23	May dividend		\$0.07	
6/30/23	June dividend		\$0.07	
7/31/23	July dividend		\$0.07	
8/31/23	August dividend		\$0.07	
9/30/23	September dividend		\$0.07	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.35	
Ending Balance				\$1,600.94
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
Beginning Balance			\$48,033.06	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
5/31/23	May Dividend		\$66.83	
6/30/23	June dividend		\$66.57	
7/11/23	transfer from checking		\$939.04	
7/31/23	July dividend		\$69.92	
8/31/23	August dividend		\$70.46	
9/30/23	September dividend		\$68.28	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$1,281.10	
Ending Balance				\$49,314.16
MAFWA/CEF TRAVEL GRANT				
Beginning Balance			\$2,335.33	
Date	Description	Expense	Income	
5/31/23	May dividend		\$2.46	
6/30/23	June dividend		\$2.48	
7/31/23	July dividend		\$2.57	
8/31/23	August dividend		\$2.57	
9/30/23	September dividend		\$2.49	
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$12.57	
Ending Balance				\$2,347.90
TOTAL FUNDS as of 10/20/2023				\$59,748.95
Respectfully Submitted,				
Gerriann Albers				



TWS NORTH CENTRAL SECTION OFFICERS

You can find our full executive board on our [website](#)

President



President: Valorie Titus
Paul Smith's College
Email: vtitus@paulsmiths.edu

President-Elect



President-Elect: Jeremy Holtz
Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources
Email: Jeremy.holtz@wisconsin.gov

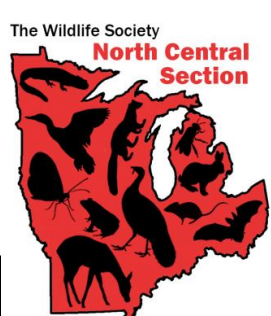
Treasurer



Treasurer: Geriann Albers
Indiana Department of Natural
Resources
Email: galbers@dnr.in.gov

Secretary

Secretary: Krysten Zummo
Mississippi Valley Conservancy
Email: tws.ncs@gmail.com



North Central Section of The Wildlife Society sponsors workshop at the 84th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, SD.

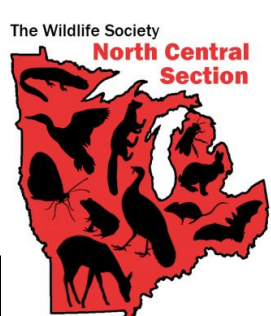
Proposed and organized by Gary E. Potts, Professional development Committee, North Central Section of The Wildlife Society and Dr. Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. The workshop is on “Co-Stewardship Agreements with Indian Tribes relating to the management of Federal Lands, Waters and Wildlife.”

Workshop Abstract:

On November 15, 2021 a Secretary’s Order was issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior (Secretaries) to ensure that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior (Departments) and their component Bureaus and Offices are managing Federal lands and waters in a manner that seeks to protect the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes; that such management is consistent with the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and federally recognized Indian Tribes; and, that such management fulfills the United States’ unique trust obligation to federally recognized Indian Tribes and their citizens. Specifically the order says "Make agreements with Indian Tribes to collaborate in the co-stewardship of Federal lands and waters under the Departments’ jurisdiction, including for wildlife and its habitat."

It has now been nearly 3 years since this order was issued. The purpose of this workshop is to explore with both federal agencies and tribes the shared experiences that they have had implementing this Secretarial order. There have been challenges and opportunities presented by this order and we can learn from each other by sharing these experiences.

Presenters will be Tribal Liaisons for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tribal representatives and organizations.



North Central Section of The Wildlife Society Elections

Meet the candidates for NCS Office

By Gary E. Potts, NCS TWS Nominating Committee and Jeremy Holtz, NCS President-Elect

The North Central Section is proud to introduce you to the candidates running for the following offices: undergraduate student representative, graduate student representative, secretary and president-elect. The candidates have served TWS in various capacities in the past and are willing to donate their time to represent you. The candidates are from five (IL, IA, MO, MN and WI) of the eight states in the NCS and come from one state agency, one federal agency, and four universities. Please respect their willingness to serve by spending time reading their biographies and clicking on the following TWS link to vote: https://twselection.site/election_ncs_2024/ Use your membership login information to access the ballots before January 26th.

Graduate Student Representative Candidates Madisen Hartlaub and Josh Williams

Madisen Hartlaub

Because I grew up on a farm in Eastern Wisconsin, I have cultivated a strong connection to our natural resources from an early age. I am grateful that some of my earliest memories of the outdoors have fostered my fundamental passion for the conservation of the natural world and an understanding of the importance of future management.

I began my undergraduate career at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point studying Wildlife Ecology and Management in the fall of 2018. I quickly became an active member of the UWSP Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) where I volunteered for many research projects before becoming a leader on the gray squirrel project for four years, and eventually an engaged board member serving as the Education Coordinator in 2021/2022. For my undergraduate research, our team used mark recapture techniques to assess urban population dynamics of gray squirrels and environmental variables that influence squirrel abundance and body condition. While the gray squirrel project provided me with a wonderful opportunity to gain animal handling and data collection skills, I also took on many leadership and administrative tasks while I prioritized providing volunteer opportunities for members to gain hands on valuable wildlife research skills. As Education Coordinator for the student chapter, I created videos for a web series called “Project WildLIVE”, provided volunteer opportunities for student chapter members, and actively volunteered at UWSP outreach and community events. Project WildLIVE are 6–8-minute YouTube videos used as an alternative to classroom educational programs halted by the COVID-19 pandemic and aimed to introduce local elementary/middle school kids to wildlife and the wildlife ecology field.



I am continually grateful for the experiences TWS provides for its members. I am proud to have been a part of the UWSP TWS officer board who created a new board member position to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2021, I was voted our student chapter’s member of the year award. I am thankful to our student chapter for sponsoring me to attend several conferences. I was fortunate to present an oral presentation at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Des Moines (2022) and a student poster at the National conference in Spokane (2022). These experiences have led me to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens as a Butterfly intern, the Racine Zoo as an Animal Welfare intern, and finally to South Dakota with Prairie Wildlife Research and the United States Geological Survey as a technician working to assess flea and other ectoparasite populations on prairie dog colonies for black-footed ferret (BFF) recovery and prairie ecosystem health.

North Central Section Officer Elections

Following my graduation in December 2022, I was hired by Prairie Wildlife Research, spending time in the lab investigating ectoparasites of BFFs, returning to South Dakota to lead the USGS plague ecology crew, and spotlighting and live trapping of BFFs for continued population and disease monitoring. I have continued involvement in the national and North Central Section (NCS) of TWS and am a new member of the TWS Wildlife Disease Working Group. I have also enjoyed cultivating hobbies such as hiking, camping, and fishing which have continued to motivate my goals of aiding in the conservation of our natural resources.

These experiences led me to pursue a Master of Natural Resource degree at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) under Drs. Shelli Dubay and Travis Livieri focusing on grassland prairie tick ecology and tularemia impacts on the endangered black-footed ferret (BFF).

As a candidate for the Graduate Student Representative position, I will dedicate myself to ensure all NCS student voices are recognized, respected, and considered by the section. I will use my leadership abilities and experience to foster an inclusive, equitable, and safe environment for all NCS members and assist in maintaining communication between graduate students and the NCS board members. I am excited to further my involvement with TWS as I strongly believe this organization is valuable for students and professionals in all stages of their careers. I greatly value everything TWS has provided for me

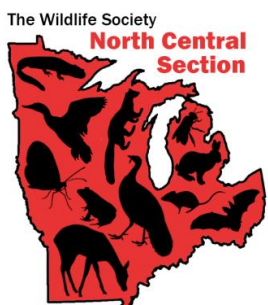
am excited about the opportunity to serve as the next Graduate Student Representative for the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society.

Josh Williams



Stepping out of my childhood home in the Bootheel of Missouri, I never saw much other than agriculture: corn in front of the house and soybeans behind it. Other than the occasional red-winged black bird or northern cardinal, I was hard pressed to find wildlife while I explored my backyard. That all changed once I witnessed the spectacle of the spring snow goose migration. Experiencing the cacophony of thousands of birds directed me towards a path centered on wildlife, conservation, and restoration.

Though the scenes I witnessed as a child left an indelible impression on me, I did not start my academic journey pursuing wildlife conservation. I entered my freshman year with aspirations to study neuroscience and become a doctor. After not being completely inspired by the work that I was doing, I began to think back about those spring migrations that impressed me. At the end of my freshman year, I was searching for undergraduate research positions and noticed a common theme: the possibility of conducting ecological field work excited me much more than neuroscience lab work. This realization was the impetus to switch to ecology, and I did so with vigor. During my time in undergrad, I worked with a university professor and assisted him with collecting entomological field data in coastal Maine. The following summer, I began to seek more opportunities. During the summer of 2020, I gained an internship with the Missouri Department of Conservation. During this internship, I banded adult wood duck hens and their ducklings, participated in prescribed fire events, and performed moist-soil habitat manipulations in wetland pools. The internship was transformative. Not only did I get to work with my favorite taxa, waterfowl, I learned how to manage a landscape so that it provides optimal habitat for those species.



In May of 2021, I graduated Brown University and earned a Sc.B. in Biology under the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology track. I quickly dove back into working with waterfowl. I spent six months in Louisiana working with wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and black-bellied whistling ducks. As crew lead, I managed a small team responsible for checking 90+ nest boxes weekly, banding adult hens, applying PIT tags and web tags to ducklings, taking physiological measurements, and conducting habitat surveys.

North Central Section Officer Elections

In January 2023, I began pursuing a M.S. in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. With Dr. Lisa Webb as my advisor, I will be working to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for Wetland Reserve Easements administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additionally, I will be investigating how hydrological connectivity between the Missouri River and the floodplain influences wetland restoration.

Though I've only been involved with TWS for a short time, I am excited by the opportunity to become a graduate student representative for the North Central Section. If elected, I would work to ensure that the NCS of TWS is an inclusive space for all members. It is necessary that all members are included in graduate student conversations, and when members voice their ideas, we all listen. Additionally, I would like to work with the undergraduate student representative so that we graduate students may facilitate conversations that guide budding wildlife scientists. Most of us are where we are because of the guidance of a person or group dear to us. I want NCS graduate students to provide that guidance to undergrads who are taking their first steps on a journey dedicated towards wildlife conservation.

Undergraduate Student Representative Candidates Sophie Hauser and Emily Michalzik

Sophie Hauser

My passion for wildlife stems from the summer before I started high school. Of course, looking back I could see it in myself long before then, but an experience I had back then showed me without a doubt that this is what I was meant to do. That summer, I worked for the Wildlife Restoration Association as a technician, and we spent the summer restoring fish and game bird habitat in my community. After that, I was hooked. I worked for them an additional two summers, and around the end

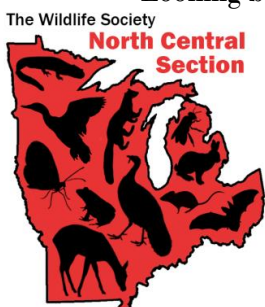


of that time, it was time for me to begin looking into colleges. I had heard about UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) and their excellent natural resource programs, and I knew it was the place for me. I currently am in my junior year there studying Wildlife Ecology and Management with minors in GIS and Biology, and since starting my college career, I haven't looked back.

One of the first student organizations I joined at the start of freshman year was our student chapter of The Wildlife Society. I found that it was a very welcoming organization, and I rapidly became involved in the outstanding projects that we have to offer. I am an active volunteer to this day, attending weekly meetings and participating in several TWS research projects. In addition to this, I am a second-year coleader to gaining a coleader on the Northern Saw-Whet Owl project, where I have been since being brought on my freshman year. This position has allowed me to expand my leadership and teaching skills, along with the more technical experiences that you can gain in the field. I am also very involved in Women in Natural Resources (WiNR), another student organization at UWSP. I have held officer positions in WiNR for the past two years, and I am currently the secretary, where I keep up with club correspondence and help organize club events and meetings. Within this organization, we promote professional relationships and offer valuable experiences to the college's women. I have gotten to be part of some amazing EDI efforts, including helping to organize our "It's Complicated" workshop that takes place annually to address workplace harassment and bias. I would love to bring some of the ideas from this club up to a higher level within the North Central Section of TWS.

Looking back to the start of my college career, I remember how intimidating getting involved can seem, and I want

students to feel like they have found a family when they walk into a meeting or event. If I were to become the undergraduate student representative for the North Central Section, I would like to use my background to help make the section as inviting as it can be for undergraduates so they can feel empowered to become involved within our profession on a larger scale. I hope that part of my future can be to help the North Central Section maximize its potential and to continue to be a place where students and professionals alike can flourish in their careers, no matter what their background may be.



Emily Michalzik

I can remember from a young age always being fascinated by the outdoors. Growing up in the suburbs just five minutes south of the city of Milwaukee could not stop me from wanting to be outside and learn about and look at various insects, birds, and whatever frog or toad made its way into my yard. After reading a novel about field biologists who studied jaguars in the Amazon Rainforest, I knew that a career in wildlife was in my future. As a Wildlife Ecology and Management major at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, my childhood dreams and wonders have become a reality.

One of the first things I did when I got to college was join our school's chapter of The Wildlife Society. I was absolutely taken aback by the amount of opportunities being a member of TWS could offer me and that it operated not only as a student organization but also as a state, section, and even international organization. TWS got my first foot in the door for research when I became a co-leader of the waterfowl project of my student chapter. As a freshman I helped make and present a poster at our school's natural resources symposium and I also helped write a research proposal to the city of Stevens Point to put up wood duck boxes on a popular trail in the city that got approved! I also felt very inspired by our officer board, they were all such passionate and intelligent individuals with amazing leadership skills. So, I decided to run for the secretary position of TWS.



As secretary of my student chapter, I have a number of responsibilities. I must hold office hours for students to come and ask questions, attend all meetings, and all officer meetings. Additionally, I am responsible for sending out the meeting minutes for my chapter. This means that I receive emails from a variety of people including wildlife faculty, other students, and other officers and am responsible for making sure that the students of our chapter get the information they need! This information could include anything from reminding members to fill out important legal documents such as our hold harmless forms so that they can go out on projects, to letting them know about volunteer opportunities through our chapter. These emails go out to over 600 people and often include up to 20 different announcements. It is up to me to organize them in a consumable and organized way so that nothing is looked over by our students.

As the secretary of my student chapter, I am able to help more students get involved with wildlife and I hope to do the same thing on a larger level as the undergraduate student representative of the North Central Section! I hope to give a voice to all student chapters so that they can get the funding, advertisement, or anything they may need from the North Central Section. I am ready to advocate for students of all backgrounds and help make being a wildlifer more accessible to people of any race, sexual orientation, income level, ability, etc. All I want is to be able to give more students the ability to explore their passions in the same ways that I have had the great privilege to as well.

Section Secretary Candidates Jen Mittelhauser and Josh Williams

Jen Mittelhauser

I was born and raised in Texas but I have lived in Missouri for the past 20 years.

For 19 years I have been a Biology Instructor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, where I have served as one of the faculty advisors for the UCM chapter of TWS for 17 years. I am currently



North Central Section State Officer Elections



finishing a PhD in Biology at the University of North Texas in Denton; my project focuses on the effects of cattle disturbance on aquatic macroinvertebrates in Missouri farm ponds in the Osage Plains ecoregion.

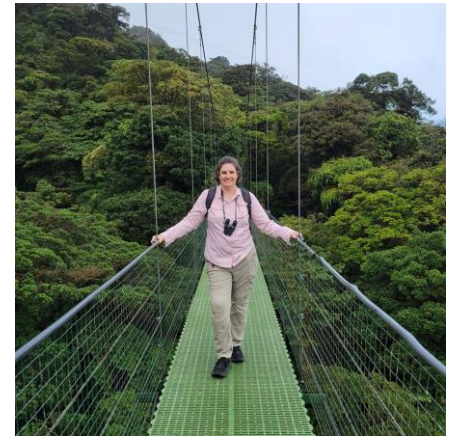
I have been a member of the Missouri chapter of TWS and the North Central Section for about 17 years. I served as Chair of the MOTWS Professional Development Committee from 2011 to 2013 where I planned and participated in some of the MOTWS professional development workshops including Bear and Savannah/Woodlands. I currently serve as Secretary, as well as acting as the main administrator of the MOTWS listserv. I attend the Missouri Natural Resources

Conference (MNRC) regularly (weather and pandemics permitting), including the MOTWS annual business meeting. Over the years I have participated in countless UCM TWS student activities, including helping to plan and run the 2012 NCS TWS student conclave held at Duck Creek Conservation Area in Puxico, MO.

It is my honor to be associated with TWS at the state, regional, and national/international level.

Pam Moore

I have worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 2009, and am a recent transfer to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. I am a Wildlife Biologist within the Refuge System, in an office that primarily produces habitat association models for federal trust species. I spent the 20 years prior to my new location in Kansas, working out of the Flint Hills and Marais des Cygnes NWRs. I completed my BS and MS in Ecology and Biodiversity at Emporia State University in Emporia Kansas, where I first became a member of The Wildlife Society when we organized the ESU student chapter.



I have been a member of the KS Chapter and Central Mountains and Plains Section until 2021, when I moved my memberships to the MN Chapter and North Central Section. I have served the Society as president of our student chapter, and board member in the KS Chapter. I am currently the Spatial Ecology and Telemetry Working Group Treasurer and as a committee member for the Leadership Institute. My husband and I have 3 daughters, we are exploring and enjoying all the cold weather activities we've tried in Minnesota. I am a huge fan of watching my youngest daughter play 12U girls' hockey, fishing, reading, traveling, houseplants, and all my dogs' shenanigans. I look forward to the opportunity to serve my new TWS Section.

Section President-elect Candidates Thomas J. (T.J.) Benson and Kelsey Fleming

Thomas J. (T.J.) Benson

I have worked at the Illinois Natural History Survey, part of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, since 2008 where I currently hold the title of Principal Research Scientist. My research involves working closely with natural resource agencies to address research priorities relevant to conservation and management, with work including investigations of habitat use, survival, migration ecology, reproductive success, and population trends of priority species or groups.



North Central Section Officer Elections

I grew up in central Iowa, graduating from the University of Iowa with a B.S. and from Iowa State University with a M.S. My graduate research at Iowa State involved working closely with NRCS and Iowa DNR to examine breeding bird responses to management of lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program and similar easement programs in the floodplain of the Iowa River. After graduating with my M.S., I continued to work closely with the NRCS and Iowa DNR on a variety of tasks before beginning work on my Ph.D. the following year. I completed my Ph.D. at Arkansas State University where I examined the ecology of Swainson's Warblers, a conservation-priority species, in bottomland hardwood forests of southeastern Arkansas.

I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2001. I was a member of the Iowa Chapter and North Central Section from 2001 to 2004, the Arkansas Chapter and Southeastern Section from 2005 to 2008, and have been a member of the Illinois Chapter and North Central Section from 2009 to present. I served on the Executive Board for the Illinois Chapter from 2019 to 2022, serving as president from 2020-2021, and I have also served as a faculty advisor to the student TWS chapter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 2020.

Each level within TWS performs important, yet different, functions. Sections serve a role that helps facilitate the sharing of information across chapters, helps organize regional efforts around shared priorities, helps information flow between the national/international level and state and student chapters, helps facilitate professional development, and helps facilitate student involvement. As a member of the North Central Section for many years, I've been able to observe the strong history of past leadership in our section in performing these and many other functions, and I'm honored to be nominated to serve in a leadership role.

Kelsey Fleming

I've been an active member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) since 2012 and have held leadership positions at different chapter levels during that time. In 2012, I served as the Graduate Representative for the Mississippi State University Student Chapter and assisted in organizing resume and cover letter workshops for undergraduates pursuing employment opportunities. From 2019-2022, I served as the Iowa Chapter President-Elect, President, and Past President and presently serve as the Awards Committee Chair of the Iowa Chapter.



I'm currently the Habitat Resources Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In this role, I serve the Wildlife Bureau in pursuing funding opportunities for habitat development and enhancement projects on our public areas. In previous positions with the Iowa DNR and Pheasants Forever, I provided technical assistance to farmers and landowners for delivery of wildlife habitat projects on private lands. I received my B.S. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University and M.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University.

I'm honored to have the opportunity to run for President-Elect of the North Central Section (NCS) of TWS. If selected for this role, I will continue to provide strong leadership which has been shown through previously elected NCS officers. For example, I will work to find innovative ways to advance relationships between NCS student and professional members, actively recruit new NCS members, and continue to deliver TWS's mission to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife

professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation. This aligns with my career aspirations of providing vision to make change and take strides to increasing wildlife conservation adoption on private lands and provide quality habitat in perpetuity while using science-based practices and principles to ensure a legacy for future generations. Thank you for considering me to serve in this role!



Northwest Missouri State University Student Chapter

This year, the Northwest Missouri State University chapter of The Wildlife Society started our 2023 fall semester by introducing the club to this year's officer team. This year, our officer team includes Abigail Manners as President, Zack Freeman as Vice President, Sydney Bogue as Secretary, Logan Carter as Treasurer, Katie Roseman as the Public Relations Officer, and Dr. Jay McGhee as the Advisor! This meeting included a fun wildlife themed scavenger hunt around campus where members could go around campus and take pictures of anything on the list and the team with the most points at the end got a prize basket. This year, we had a few guest speakers including Dr. Vincent Hustad who gave a presentation about mycology and TJ Peacher who talked about "Crafting with Leftovers," discussing alternative uses for deer parts! The club would like to give a thank you to these guest speakers and tell them how much we appreciate them for their time and energy in educating members. For Halloween, the officer team hosted a spooky jeopardy party that included snacks and a snack basket at the end for the winning team. Our final meeting of the year concluded with discussing scholarships, volunteering for Eagle Days, and planning for the Missouri Natural Resources Conference.



Outside of meeting times, the Wildlife Club NWMSU chapter participated and volunteered for several events throughout the semester. At Loess Bluffs Wildlife Refuge, members volunteered to go monarch tagging, deer spotlighting, and went plant sampling to assess duck bioenergetics. We also had several students participate in the University Hunt with Delta Waterfowl where students can get their hunter education certification paid for and they get to experience going on a duck hunt for the first time. We would like to thank Delta Waterfowl for hosting and paying for this program. Students also got to participate in chalk art for homecoming where the theme was "Welcome to the 'Ville'" a jungle and safari theme. And we aren't done yet! Students are also planning to go volunteer at Loess Bluffs Eagle Days this December. This year, Adele Shade returned to us from a year studying abroad in Australia, and Jessica Herrera is currently doing a work study program at Loess Bluffs Wildlife Refuge!

The officer team has also been busy with things of their own. They participated in a trunk or treat event at Moberly Lake Recreation Park and passed out candy to community members of Nodaway County. During this event officers brought skull and track imprints to help educate the public. The team was also involved in an accepted student visit day panel to get future Northwest students excited for wildlife and promote the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation major. Officers were also part of a separate Wildlife and Marine Bio student panel for prospective students to talk about our experiences both in and out of the classroom.

The Northwest Missouri State University Wildlife Club has had a busy 2023 fall semester and has seen a huge increase in student involvement! As the fall semester ends and the warm months turn cold, the officer team is excited to plan out future spring meetings for the upcoming semester.

-Submitted by Sydney Bogue, Secretary

University of Minnesota-Crookston Student Chapter

The UMC Student Chapter is excited to be back this Fall! We have elected a new leadership team: President – Hunter Kasprovicz, Vice President – Zoey Magner, Secretary – Ryan Kalal, and Crookston Student Association Representatives – Colson Barnett, Cody Wolff, and Brandon Wendberg. In September, we had two groups of students travel to the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to band ducks. We also went to Hawk Ridge in Duluth to view the great raptor migration along Lake Superior. In addition, volunteers conducted waterfowl bag checks at Thief Lake WMA in October. Several members sampled whitetail deer for Chronic Wasting Disease during the firearm deer season.



This includes removing the retropharyngeal lymph nodes and collecting the hunter's information. On December 2nd, we are working with the Natural Resources Club to host a booth at UMC's Santaland. We will help kids from the community make pine cone bird feeders so they can enjoy the winter birds here in Northern Minnesota. Coming to the end of the semester, we are planning Spring Term events including trips to Sax-Zim Bog, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, the Minnesota Chapter TWS Annual Meeting, and a visit to a bear den with our state bear biologist.

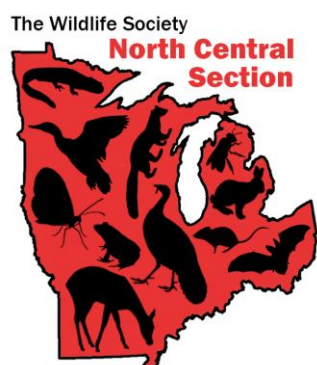
Submitted by Hunter Kasprovicz

Purdue Student Chapter

The Purdue Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has had a busy start to the 2023-2024 school year. We have a total of 58 dues paying members, with the number increasing as the year continues. Our chapter has hosted over 25 events this semester, with a turnout of 30+ members at general meetings and 10+ members at working group events. In October, we participated in various community engagement events, including Purdue FNR's "Fall into Nature". At this event, we hosted educational tables and led nature hikes. In November, we brought 17 students to the National TWS Conference. At the conference, 8 members presented their undergraduate research, and the Purdue quiz bowl team won the national title! Next semester, we're planning to visit the Cook County Forest Preserves research station, take a trip to Indiana Dunes National Park, and host the North Central Section Conclave!



The Birds Working Group taught members how to bird band.



Missouri Western State University Student Chapter Update

Here's everything we've been up to this semester:

- Dove Wing Collection at Pony Express Conservation Area
- Prairie Days at Dunn Ranch
- Junior Naturalists Program at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Monarch Tagging at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Bird Banding (18 days) on John Rushin Teaching and Research Prairie
- Monarch Tagging on John Rushin Teaching and Research Prairie
- Volunteer Water Monitoring Training
- Furbearer Surveys across both Andrew and Worth County
- Fall Quail Covey Counts at Pony Express Conservation Area
- Deer Spotlighting Surveys at Swan Lake Conservation Area and Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Fall Seed Harvest at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Moist Seed Head Index at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Woody Plant Control at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Trail Mulching at Otoe Creek Natural Area (MDC)
- Deer Mobility Hunt at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge
- Eagle Days at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge

On top of these events, we've had a host of speakers at our weekly meetings. These speakers include:

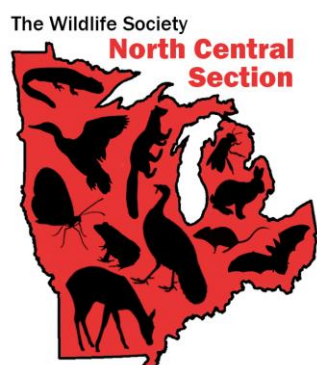
- Jade Wright, Parker Rice, and Kelsey Gillenwater (MDC Conservation Agents)
- Dr. Tilottama Roy (Society of Herbarium Curators)
- Rick Campbell (Horton Bureau of Indian Affairs)
- Operation Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- Darrin Welchert (Wildlife Biologist USFWS - Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge)
- TJ Peacher (MDC Education and Outreach Supervisor)
- Ben Limley (Wildlife Biologist - Tongass National Forest)
- Alan Leary (MDC Wildlife Management Coordinator)

University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Chapter Update

We've had a very busy semester so far! We've done a lot of bird trivia and heard from speakers about wildlife rehabilitation, Sandhill Crane conservation, and citizen science. So far we have been bird banding on campus, eaten many s'mores at a bonfire, won a kickball game against the UW-Madison chapter of the Audubon Society and hiked at Devil's Lake. We also visited the Aldo Leopold Foundation to watch the crane migration in early November with Dr. Stan Temple.



Looking forward to next semester, we'll be hosting our annual Wild Game Dinner and a "Trapping Matters" workshop. Also, we are looking forward to more field trips, including searching for salamanders! As always, feel free to reach out if you are interested in speaking to our club or organizing a field trip with us!



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter Update

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. In fact, our saw-whet owl project banded 34 in one night! Other members of our officer team have hosted a wide variety of events such as mead wildlife area workday clean up, pumpkin carving, and creating enrichment for monkeys at Primates, Inc.

Additionally, we are seeing a record number of students joining our club this year. Interestingly enough, a large number of students getting involved are not just wildlife students, but also a wide variety of other natural resource majors as well as some not even being in the college of natural resources. We have an exciting group of freshmen ready to volunteer and participate. Many incoming new members are also interested in reviving some of our dormant projects such as bat and otter projects. It has been great to see such involved members!

We recently just got our TWS Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) Officer position approved and have elected a member into the position. 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. We think this is an important position to highlight as it is a big step into creating an inclusive club for all.

The annual National Wildlife Society conference in Louisville was a special one for us this year. Our student chapter accepted the award for student chapter of the year! We sponsored eight members to present research and represent our student chapter. With three of our projects including black bear, ruffed grouse, and saw-whet owl being represented in the poster session. We also got to befriend other student chapters and bounce ideas off of one another. It was definitely a memorable experience for all!

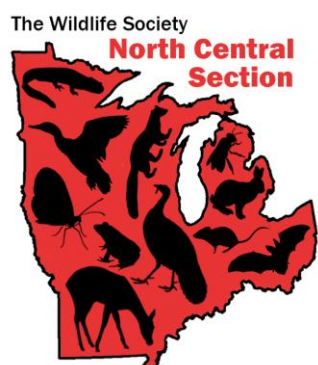
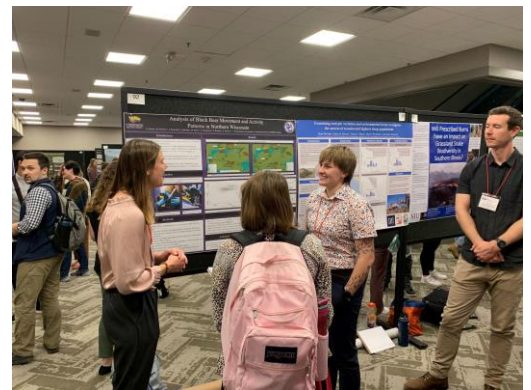
We can't wait to see what this upcoming year brings for us!

Submitted by Alayna Reynolds, President



Members accepting the award for student chapter of the year.

*Poster
presenting
research on
movement
activity
patterns of
black bears in
northern
Wisconsin.*



Illinois Chapter Update



The Illinois Chapter of the Wildlife Society partnered with Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to put on a boater's safety and certification course in middle September. Over 30 students and new professionals from both the state wildlife and fisheries chapters participated in the two-day course. Participants earned their boater certification card and gained hands-on experience in operating and towing boats along with experience in small engine and boat trailer repair. The course was well received and there is talk of offering it on a biennial basis.

A big thanks to the instructors who assisted with making the event a success, including staff from IDNR



Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation Police, Safety Education, the Illinois Natural History Survey and The Nature Conservancy.

-Submitted by Kirk Stodola

Indiana Chapter Update

The Indiana Chapter held its annual fall continuing education workshop in Jasper, Indiana in October. The theme of the workshop topic was "Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts." Lee Humberg, Indiana State Director for USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services presented on vulture biology and management; Dr. Grant Burcham from the Purdue Disease Diagnostics Laboratory presented on Black Vulture research investigating Depredating vs. Scavenging; Tara Beckman from Purdue Extension led a facilitated discussion on conflict management; and nationally recognized livestock depredation expert, Tom Elliot of West Virginia's USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services presented on livestock depredation by wildlife and then led a simulated depredation field investigation.

Several members of the Indiana Chapter attended the annual TWS meeting in Louisville, and six members presented research findings in contributed oral sessions. Additionally, our president, and president-elect, and treasurer attended the Sections and Chapters Collaboration Meeting. We were able to gain some insight into how other state chapters are running their annual meetings, fundraising, and recruiting and retaining members. Also, a big shout out to Purdue University's Student Chapter for winning the 2023 Quiz Bowl!

On the conservation affairs front, the chapter voted to submit a letter of support on behalf of the Hoosier National Forest's draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for a forest management and restoration project in Jackson and Lawrence Counties.

Indiana's annual meeting is on the books for March 26 & 27 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The plenary session will focus on urban wildlife.



Missouri Chapter Update

- The upcoming Missouri Natural Resource Conference is happening February 6th through 8th 2024, at the Margaritaville Resort at Lake of the Ozarks, MO (MNRC.org). Important events relevant to the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society are:

- MOTWS Business meeting Thursday 8th.
- Fundraiser at MOTWS Booth
- Announcement of Student Chapter Scavenger Hunt Winner
- Election Results for President-Elect & Secretary
- Awards Banquet – MOTWS E. Sydney Stephens Award & G. Andy Runge

- We are currently underway with our planning for our Professional and Student Workshops, news to come.

- Of course, we encourage membership engagement in committees. Anyone interested can contact me for more information.

-Submitted by Jordan Meyer

*Parting Thoughts from the Editor**

This will be the last newsletter you see from me, as I will be moving from President-elect to President of the Section at the Midwest meeting in January. I will be in attendance, and if you are there I encourage you to track me down and say hello. If you have made it to the end of this newsletter, hopefully you have taken the time to read the contributions from your current and future peers.

We need your involvement. Renew your membership. Consider nomination for a future elected position. Encourage colleagues to take their membership to the next level, where the landscape work really becomes visible. The North Central Section can't thrive without active participation.

There will be a new President-Elect at the end of January, and their first task will be to start collecting information for the next newsletter. I have a list of items, and so do you—in the chapter bylaws.

- Articles on special topics of interest
- Publications available and upcoming
- Future conferences, symposia, workshops, and meetings along with their particulars

Thanks for your patience! Expect to hear from me throughout the coming year as I do my best to serve you in the capacity of President.

*Contributed by Jeremy Holtz, CWB 2023 President-elect, NCS TWS

