

»»» OHIO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY «««

# OCTWS FALL NEWSLETTER



Wild turkey, Lauren Connolly  
Wild Developments Studio

## THIS SEASON'S HIGHLIGHTS

September 2024

### WILDLIFE RESEARCH

SEASONAL VARIATION IN  
USE OF PVC REFUGIA BY  
GRAY TREEFROGS

Submitted by: Dr. Donald Althoff  
Rio Grande University, OCTWS member

### »»» READ MORE

Jump to **page 9** to learn about this soon-to-be-published research on gray treefrog populations and habitat preferences.

Have your own research to share?  
Send it to [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com)  
to be featured in future newsletters!



Treefrog observed in Dr. Althoff's  
research

### WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM? «««

As our current president-elect and treasurer terms come to an end, we will be electing new leadership members this winter. We are looking for passionate individuals from a variety of backgrounds to apply! Whether you work in the university, non-profit, government, administrative or other sector of the wildlife and environmental world, learn how you can get involved on **page 5**.

### OCTWS ELECTION YEAR

SEEKING NEW OHIO CHAPTER  
PRESIDENT-ELECT & TREASURER



## WHAT IS THE OCTWS?

The Ohio Chapter is a recognized state unit of its parent, international organization, The Wildlife Society. Although an independent unit, the Chapter adheres to the purposes and guidelines of TWS. The Chapter's programs, activities, and positions dealing with the broad range of wildlife species, their habitats, and especially their various interactions with people, are developed and approved by the Chapter's membership and/or its Governing Board. The welfare of wildlife resources, in keeping with adopted principles and acceptable actions of those charged with their responsibilities, is the main purpose of the Chapter's membership. Membership is open to anyone of adult age who complies with the above and is in good standing with regard to payment of annual dues or other approved obligations.



Barred owl, Lauren Connolly  
Wild Developments Studio



Spotted salamander,  
two-lined salamander, and egg mass.  
Gabriel Karns

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- PRESIDENT'S NOTE....3
- UPCOMING EVENTS....4
- GET INVOLVED....5
- ANNUAL WORKSHOP...6
- STUDENT CHAPTERS...7-8
- WILDLIFE NEWS/RESEARCH....9
- MEMBER RESOURCES...10

---

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

---



Eastern Comma, Jim Danzi

**Dear Ohio Chapter Members,**

As we transition into the latter half of the year, I am thrilled to reflect on the strides we've made and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our Chapter and the field of wildlife conservation.

Firstly, I encourage all of you to mark your calendars for our upcoming conference and workshop January 16-17 in partnership with Ohio Wildlife Management Society (more details forthcoming!).

These events promise to be invaluable opportunities for learning, networking, and sharing the latest advancements in wildlife science. Your participation is crucial as it not only enhances your professional growth but also strengthens our collective impact on Ohio's wildlife conservation efforts.

Additionally, we are in the process of planning a student chapter workshop that aims to inspire and equip the next generation of wildlife professionals. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering talent and ensuring a vibrant future for our field. I urge you to get involved and support these emerging leaders who will drive our mission forward.

Looking ahead, the TWS National Conference in October will be held in Baltimore and offer a broader platform to connect with colleagues from across the country. Attending this conference will allow you to gain insights into national trends and strategies while building relationships with fellow wildlife enthusiasts and experts.

Your engagement in these events and your involvement in our chapter are vital as we work together to advance wildlife conservation in Ohio. Let's take this opportunity to network, share knowledge, and collaborate towards a shared vision of preserving our natural heritage.

Thank you for your continued dedication and passion. Together, we are making a difference.

**Erin Hazelton**

President, Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society





Northern watersnake, Lauren Connolly  
Wild Developments Studio

# UPCOMING EVENTS

2024-2025

**October**  
**19 - 23**

More on Pg. 8



## TWS Annual Conference

Its not too late to register for the Wildlife Society's 31st annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Learn, network, and engage with other TWS members and leaders!

**November**  
**30**

More on Pg. 5



## Application Deadline

As we search for a new President-elect and Treasurer for the OCTWS, ensure you can be considered by getting your application in by Nov. 30 by emailing [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com).

**January**  
**16 - 17**

More on Pg. 6



## OCTWS Workshop

Our upcoming conference and workshop January 16-17 in partnership with Ohio Wildlife Management Society. Join us for a tour of the Watters Aquatic Conservation Center and our annual OCTWS member's meeting.



# GET INVOLVED! LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OCTWS

## Become our next President-Elect:

This leadership position's roles include:

- Serving as temporary president when the individual in this role is unable to serve
- Coordinating with Student Chapters
- Attending OCTWS leadership meetings (all of which are virtual)
- Providing valuable input and experience to the OCTWS



## Become our next Treasurer:

This leadership position's roles include:

- Maintaining OCTWS financial records
- Coordinating with The Wildlife Society
- Track memberships and document new members
- Attending OCTWS leadership meetings (all of which are virtual)



Ready to apply? Send a brief bio to [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com)

Ready to apply? Send a brief bio to [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com)

**Deadline to apply: November 30, 2024**

## Join the By-laws Committee:

Want to get involved but can't commit to a leadership position? We need help reviewing our OCTWS by-laws! Our By-law Committee is dedicated to reviewing, editing, and improving the by-laws. Those with an administrative, law or just overall great attention to detail would be encouraged to take part.

Interested in joining the By-laws Committee? Email [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com) today! No deadline, but the sooner the better as this is an on-going project.





# JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL WORKSHOP & MEETING!

**January 16-17, 2025**

**Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center**

**2201 Fred Taylor Dr. Columbus, OH 43210**



Please save the date for our annual meeting, as part of the OWMA Conference in Columbus, Ohio. We will kick off the conference with a workshop open to all OCTWS members on Thursday, January 16 (Time is TBD, stay tuned!). We will be taking a behind-the-scenes tour of the The Watters Aquatic Conservation Center. This facility is trailblazing mussel conservation through the Ohio State University and the Columbus Zoo.



The Watters Aquatic Conservation Center

We will additionally have a demonstration by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife K-9 Program.

Both of these incredible opportunities will offer information about groundbreaking conservation work in the state of Ohio, networking opportunities with other TWS members, and an opportunity to kick off the conference with hands-on learning.



K-9 Mila and handler Josh Elster, Division of Wildlife K-9 Program

Consecutively, our annual OCTWS member's meeting will occur Friday morning, January 17 at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Join us for updates, elections, and to provide insight on all that your chapter of the TWS can do for you!

**Exact times are to-be-announced! Please save the date and stay tuned for more details. The updated schedule will be posted on the OWMA website later this year.**

**>>> <https://ohiowildlife.org/> <<<**



## OSU STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

Our OSU Student Chapter (Fish & Wildlife Society at The Ohio State University) is a hybrid student organization under both The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society. Students in this organization are empowered in the fields of fisheries and wildlife management, and are presented with workshops, networking opportunities, and resume-expanding learning.

This year, the OSU chapter reported growth of their leadership team and membership! Attendance to meetings and workshops is on the rise.

Highlights from the 2023–2024 school year include the student chapter touring the Ohio Wildlife Center, one of the state’s largest wildlife rehabilitation centers. In April, students finished their school year with a darter sampling workshop. Students assisted Dr. Brian Zimmerman in surveying for Tippecanoe darters, a recently-introduced species to the OSU wetlands! We cannot wait to see what our students have in store for the current school year.



**Male and female Tippecanoe Darters. ODNR, Stream Fishes of Ohio Field Guide**

## OSU’S FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

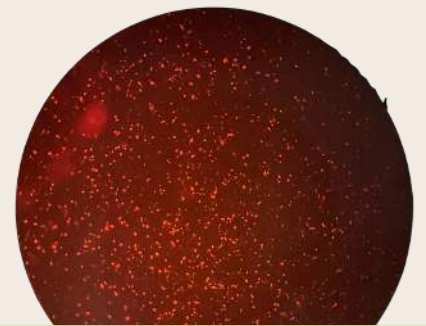


## CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT CHAPTER OFFICER, EVAN MA!

Evan Ma, OSU Student Chapter Officer has been selected to travel to Baltimore for the TWS Annual Conference and present his research poster.

Evans research evaluates the pluriipotency of fowl embryos. His study focuses on determining which Yamanaka factors (Nanog + Pou5f3 or Sox2 + Lin28) most effectively induce pluripotency in chicken, quail, and turkey embryonic fibroblasts. His study holds a major overarching conservation goal: the ability to use feather fibroblasts for the reproduction of endangered bird species. Using feathers is a non-invasive method of collection. And, by inducing them into iPSCs and then Primordial Germ Cells, they could be injected into a carrier embryo which would then grow up and produce offspring of the target species. Incredible!

Congratulations to Evan! Want to attend the Annual Conference and support incredible up-and-coming researchers like Evan? Visit The Wildlife Society homepage to register today!



**Avian cells glowing with Cnidarian fluorescent proteins. Glowing cells have become pluripotent stem cells.**  
Evan Ma, OSU Student

## OTHER OCTWS STUDENT CHAPTERS INCLUDE:



Interested in starting a student chapter of the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society at your school? Log onto The Wildlife Society's website to learn how to get started.

<https://wildlife.org/student-chapter-resources/>





Eastern spiny softshell turtle,  
David Goldstein

# WILDLIFE NEWS

OHIO 2024



Barn owlet found on the ground at  
London City Schools

## Barn Owl Rescue!

In Madison County, London City Schools students were shocked to find a barn owlet on the ground before it was ready to leave the nest. Thanks to the assistance of Wildlife Officer Matt Teders, The Ohio Wildlife Center, and The Wilds, the owlet was rescued. With barn owl populations declining in Ohio, every owl counts. Read the full story using the link below:  
<https://www.london.k12.oh.us/article/1714019>



Researcher Zoe Almedia from The Ohio  
State University

## Walleye Growth Dependent on Surprising Factor

A study completed by the Ohio State University's Zoe Almedia show that walleye in the Great Lakes are most impacted by their genetics and the winters experienced by their parents, more than any other factor. This has implications for warming winters, as well as wildlife management techniques and population predictions. Read the full story here:  
<https://news.osu.edu/lake-erie-walleye-growth-is-driven-by-parents-size-experience/>



Gray treefrog observed during  
Dr. Althoff's research

## Seasonal Use of PVC Habitats by Gray Treefrogs

Although easy to study in their aquatic breeding habitats, monitoring gray treefrog populations in terrestrial landscapes poses challenges. In this study, Don, Wayne, and Jess used PVC pipes as micro-habitats to measure gray treefrog relative abundance in forest habitats. The goals were to determine if the color of PVC refugia mattered and if there was variation in seasonality of terrestrial gray treefrog occupancy of the PVC pipes. One observed outcome was that early and late season are ample times to research treefrog populations as April and October surveys yielded the highest occupancy rates. Want to read more? Email [dalthofferio.edu](mailto:dalthofferio.edu) for a copy of this research!



Turkey Vulture  
Photographed by Jim Danzi

## FOR MORE WILDLIFE SOCIETY INFO, VIEW THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY PAGE RESOURCES BELOW:

Wildlife Society  
Homepage

<https://wildlife.org/>

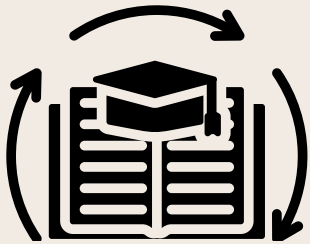
Ohio Chapter  
Homepage

<https://wildlife.org/ohio/>

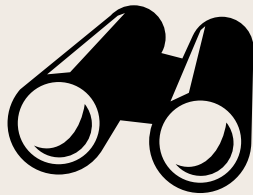
Find Wildlife Careers

[https://careers.wildlife.org/home/index.cfm?site\\_id=8764](https://careers.wildlife.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=8764)

## WANT TO EXPAND BEYOND YOUR OCTWS MEMBERSHIP? CONSIDER JOINING THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (PARENT ORGANIZATION)



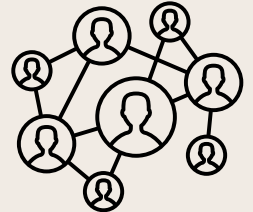
Gain access to online journal publications and conference lectures for free



Gear discounts for Vortex binoculars, and more!



The Wildlife Professional magazine and eWildlifer weekly e-newsletter



Mentoring/mentorship opportunities with wildlife professionals

Add a TWS membership today!  
<https://wildlife.org/join/>



# YOUR OHIO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY LEADERSHIP



**Erin Hazelton,  
President**



**Becky Crow,  
President-Elect**



**Renee Buck,  
Past-President**



**Catherine Dennison,  
Treasurer**



**Kayla Ferdelman,  
Secretary**



**Contact us anytime! [ohiowildlife@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiowildlife@hotmail.com)**