

A wildlife biologist is a trained professional with demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology and biology to the sound stewardship and management of wildlife and their ecosystems.

Wildlife includes non-domesticated animals, notably insects, other invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.



Photo credit -- Cait Donadt

Benefits of Certification

- establishes a rigorous standard and quality control for Wildlife Biology and Management practices
- enhances the credibility of the profession of wildlife biology
- builds commitment to the wildlife profession beyond employment
- advances regulation of wildlife biology occupations
- facilitates communication and sharing of best-practices across jurisdictions
- eliminates jurisdictional barriers when working anywhere in Canada
- ensures appropriate wildlife biology related courses and training by students /young professionals.
- provides a definite hiring asset for wildlife-related jobs
- facilitates communication with other resource-based professionals.
- provides leadership in promoting conservation of natural resources.

Certification Committee

The Certification Committee was formed in 2017 to revitalize TWS' Wildlife Biologist Certification Program in Canada. It has two main goals: 1) to work with TWS to see how the present certification program can be made more appealing to Canadian wildlife students / biologists; and 2) to work towards establishing national standards for practicing wildlife biologists across Canada. Email: CSTWSCertificationCommittee@gmail.com

For more information

Check TWS Website <http://wildlife.org>, re-changes to:

[Wildlife Biologist Certification Program Policies & Procedures Manual.](#)

[Associate Wildlife Biologist® Application](#)

[Certified Wildlife Biologist® Application](#)

[Upgrade \(AWB® to CWB®\) Application](#)

[CWB® Renewal application](#)

[Associate Wildlife Biologist® Extension Application](#)

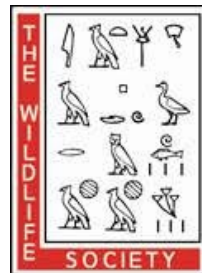


Photo credit – Brian Kiss

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TWS) WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Photo credit – Katherine Conkin

Overview

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is an international network of nearly 10,000 leaders amongst wildlife science, management and conservation who are dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship.

To promote and strengthen professional standards amongst wildlife biologists, TWS initiated the Wildlife Biologist Certification Program in 1977. The program evaluates prospective applicants based on four considerations:

- 1) educational depth,
- 2) experience as a practicing professional,
- 3) TWS membership, and
- 4) a commitment to TWS's [Code of Ethics](#).

To ensure the education and professional experience requirements were being met, TWS established the [Certification Review Board](#) (CRB). The CRB is an eight-member board representing each TWS section (including the Canadian section).

TWS is the only organization providing a peer-reviewed certification for wildlife biologists. TWS has been responsible for the creation of 1,900 Certified Wildlife Biologists® (CWB®).

ASSOCIATE WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST®

An individual who has met the education requirements but has not yet obtained at least 5 years of professional-level wildlife experience in the previous 10 years to qualify as a Certified Wildlife Biologist® (CWB®) can apply to be designated as an Associate Wildlife Biologist® (AWB®).

AWB® Education Requirements

Wildlife Management and Biology (12 semester hours) – At least 3 semester hours emphasizing the principles and practices of wildlife management and/or conservation biology. At least 3 semester hours dealing with birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians biology.

Ecology (3 semester hours) – Courses in general plant and animal ecology.

Zoology (9 semester hours) – Taxonomy, biology, behaviour, physiology, anatomy, and natural history of vertebrates and invertebrates.

Botany (9 seminar hours) – Courses in general botany, plant genetics, morphology or physiology. At least one course must be plant taxonomy or plant identification.



Photo credit -- Brian Hagglund

Physical Sciences (9 semester hours) – Courses in chemistry, physics, geology, or soils.

Basic Statistics (3 semester hours) – A course in basic statistics.

Quantitative Sciences (6 semester hours) – Courses in calculus, mathematical modeling, sampling, computer science, or others.

The educational requirements are expressed in semester hours. One semester hour is one lecture hour or 3 laboratory hours of instruction/ week/ term. Courses from technical institutions and universities are considered equivalent if the result is a degree. Applicants are urged to present evidence to clear course deficiencies.

Humanities and Social Science (9 semester hours) – Courses in economics, sociology, psychology, political science, government, history, literature, or foreign language.

Communications (12 semester hours) – Courses to improve communication skills – English composition, technical writing, journalism, public speaking, or use of mass media.

Policy, Administration, and Law (6 semester hours) – Courses that deal with natural resources policy, wildlife/environment law, or land use planning. Three semester hours dealing with human dimension issues.

For those who were AWB® and have now acquired at least 5 years of professional-level experience can submit to the upgrade application.

AWB® Mentorship (see CSTWS' website)

Those interested, email us information on:
1) work experience 2) involvement in TWS;
3) student status; biologists should indicate their diplomas or degrees; 4) your mentor preference; 5) why is being an AWB® so important. Based on this information, we will assign you a CWB® mentor.



Photo credit -- Don Barnes



Photo credit – Dr. Ryan Brook

CERTIFIED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST® (CWB)

There are several ways that TWS members can become certified:

- 1) An AWB® certification is granted for 10 years and within that time limit, the applicant is expected to obtain 5 years of professional-level experience. Only then can the TWS member apply to become a CWB®. If AWBs do not meet the 5-year experience requirement, they can apply for a three-year extension).
- 2) A wildlife biologist who has been working for a minimum of 5 years may become a CWB without first becoming an AWB. In this situation, applicants must show that courses and professional level experience meet TWS Certification Guidelines.
- 3) Biologists with course work deficiencies may substitute work experience in lieu of required course work. To be legible, a BSc should have 15 years, a MSc 12 years, and a PhD 10 years, and must include letters of confirmation from at least 2 TWS members in good standing (one being a CWB).

Every 5 years a CWB® must re-certify by logging 80 hours of professional activities.

APPLICATIONS AND FEES (USD)
Send to certification@wildlife.org
AWB application – \$95 if within 6 months of graduation, otherwise \$115.
AWB application for 3-year extension -- \$25
AWB upgrade application – \$75
CWB application – \$155
CWB Five-year re-certification – \$25