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Canadian Section of the Wildlife Society Newsletter

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CANADIAN SECTION NEWSLETTER

August 2015
Vol. 8 Issue No. 4

Mission

To foster excellence in
wildlife stewardship
through science and

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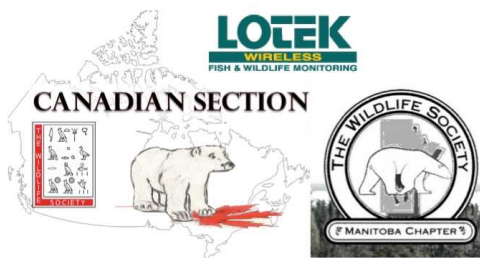
The 22nd ANNUAL TWS CONFERENCE

**Winnipeg, Manitoba
October 17 - 22, 2015**

Register online at
www.twsconference.org

At the Conference....

Don't forget to attend the Canadian Section / Manitoba Chapter reception. One of the highlights at the conference. **Monday, October 19 at 5:30 PM The Delta Hotel - Assiniboine A Room**



Sponsored by Lotek Wireless

President's Message

Mark Boyce
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Alberta



With the TWS annual conference in Winnipeg during 2015 October 17-21, we have difficulty thinking about much else! This will be the event of the decade for Canadian wildlifers, and we are organized for a fantastic meeting. A full slate of symposia, workshops, contributed paper sessions, poster sessions, field trips, and affiliated meetings will keep us all engaged. Everything is up on the conference website: <http://www.twsconference.org/>.

We have special opportunities to help students to participate with travel grants announced in this newsletter. In addition, provincial chapters have offered student travel grants to attend TWS-Winnipeg. We have matched contributions by the Alberta and Manitoba Chapters for a total of \$7,000 to support TWS-Winnipeg.

Thanks to our Secretary-Treasurer, Matt Dyson, and Vice President, Laura Trout, for the bright new format for our newsletter. Likewise, these two have been revising the format for our website making a more attractive and accessible. In addition, Laura Trout is now helping Matt Dyson with editing this newsletter.

Canadian wildlife has received recent attention by Parliament with a study of “Licenced Hunting and Trapping in Canada” conducted by the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development ([link to article](#)). Although the report contains few surprises, it reinforces Canada’s commitment to habitat and sustainable use of our wildlife resources. Remarkably, all political parties including the Conservative, NDP, and Liberals endorsed the major findings of the study and recognized the value of hunting and trapping in Canada. Hunting and trapping engages 2.1 million Canadians annually or about 8% of the population, whereas 89% of the population are involved with some nature related activity more broadly. Total economic expenditures for hunting, trapping, fishing and other nature-related activities exceed \$40 billion annually.

Deficiencies of the report tend to reflect the positions of the current government that is pro-industry and opposed to new taxes. Even though several witnesses spoke to the conservation opportunities of a targeted excise tax on hunting and fishing-related expenditures similar to the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts in the United States, Robert Sopuck (MP Manitoba) reminded us that the Harper government is opposed to any new taxes even if the hunting and angling community wish to be taxed.

Likewise, even though testimony compiled by the committee addressed climate change issues, the recommendations of the report made no mention for the need to anticipate climate change effects. Nevertheless, the report reflects broad support for wildlife and wildlife habitats in Canada.

We will see all of you in Winnipeg in a few weeks!

Mark S. Boyce, CWB

President, Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society



Canadian Section Representative Report

Art Rodgers

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Many thanks to all of you who voted in the recent TWS elections for your continued support in re-electing me as Canadian Section representative to TWS Council. Serving on Council and various subcommittees over the last three years has been a truly rewarding and educational experience as we have put TWS back on sound financial ground, replaced most of our senior headquarters staff, made changes to the bylaws, renegotiated our publishing contract, recruited new Editors for the journals, upgraded the website and made a host of less obvious changes that you may not have heard about but are all geared towards improving operations and service to all members. Of course, from a Canadian perspective, our greatest achievement was Council approval to host The Wildlife Society 22nd Annual Conference in Winnipeg this fall. Over the next three years I look forward to working with the various committees that I have been involved with to see some of the recommendations that we've made through to the end while continuing to offer a Canadian perspective to Council and the business of TWS.

Others recently elected to Council were Vice-President, John McDonald (Westfield State University, Massachusetts) and new Section Representatives Mike Conner (Southeast Section) and Fidel Hernández (Southwest Section). The newly-elected members of Council will take office during the Annual Conference, taking place October 17-21 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We are profoundly grateful to Immediate Past-President Jon Haufler, Southeast Section representative Darren Miller and Southwest Section representative Carol Chambers, all of whom are retiring from Council after many years of service to wildlife professionals across the U.S. and Canada.

The response to the 22nd Annual Conference in Winnipeg has so far exceeded all expectations. Here are some of the highlights to date;

- the program features 2 Plenary Sessions, 21 Symposia, 12 Workshops, and several hundred Contributed Papers and Posters; in fact, so many papers were submitted that most days it will be necessary to run nine concurrent sessions
- registration opened June 1 and there are already 245 registered participants; 64% ahead of last year
- of the registered participants, 49% are professionals, 36% are students, 10% are new professionals, and 5% are retired; 72% are from the US, 25% are from Canada, and 3% are international
- 35% of the total registered participants (86 people) have signed up for the Field Trips that will take place during the conference period; last year a total of 100 people signed up for the seven field trips that were offered
- 35% of the total registered participants have also signed up for one of the Workshops; last year, 264 people attended a workshop
- 54 exhibitors with a total booth count of 57 have signed up; a 50% increase over last year's conference
- the Fundraising Committee has done an exceptional job and expects to exceed their budgeted goal of \$253,000.

Clearly, the Annual Conference in Winnipeg is on track to be one of the best ever and you won't want to miss it. You can find out everything you need to know at <http://www.twsconference.org/>. Students should submit applications for the CSTWS student travel award to attend and present at the annual TWS conference as soon as possible; applications are being accepted until **August**

31 (http://drupal.wildlife.org/canada/student_travel). And when you get to the Conference, don't forget to attend the TWS Canadian Section/Manitoba Chapter Reception in the Assiniboine A room at the Delta Hotel, Monday **October 19** at 5:30 pm – as always this will be a major highlight of the Annual Conference thanks to our sponsors Lotek Wireless.

I hope the rest of your summer and early fall are fantastic and I look forward to seeing you in Winnipeg!!

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD DEADLINE APPROACHING

Canadian section student members can apply for **STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS** to go and present their research at the Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Winnipeg, MB CANADA. This year several grants will be afforded to students to make sure we are well represented. Further details and



applications are available on the [website](#). Applications will be accepted **until 31 August 2015**, but do not wait...get yours in now!

Send completed application to:

Evelyn Merrill, Canadian Section Awards Committee Chair
Department of Biological – University of Alberta
emerrill@ualberta.ca

2015 Student & Young Professional Travel Awards

Spatial Ecology & Telemetry Working Group

The Spatial Ecology and Telemetry Working Group of the Wildlife Society is soliciting applications for \$500 travel awards to attend the Wildlife Society's 22st Annual 2015 Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. A total of four awards will be provided in the following three categories:

- **2 Graduate Student awards:** Must be a current graduate student or have graduated in 2015.
- **1 Undergraduate Student award:** Must be a current undergraduate student or have graduated in 2015.
- **1 Young Professional award:** Must have graduated from undergraduate or graduate school within the previous 2 years.

Award guidelines:

Individual applicants must be a member of The Wildlife Society at the national level.

Membership of the Spatial Ecology and Telemetry Working Group is not required (although it is encouraged). Graduate student and young professional applicants must be presenting a poster and/or oral presentation at the conference. Preference will be given to applicants whose research emphasizes GIS, remote sensing, or telemetry. Undergraduate applicants are not required to present but should have research interests or experience in the areas of GIS, remote sensing or telemetry. Travel awards will not be presented to applicants who have already received a travel award from The Wildlife Society or another working group in 2015. As a condition of the travel award, graduate students and young professional award recipients will be asked to write a short article describing their research for our SETWG newsletter. Undergraduate award recipients will be asked to write a paragraph on the benefits gained by attending the conference.

How to apply:

Applicants must send a copy of their presentation abstract (graduate and young professional) or a description of their research interests (undergraduate), a brief 1-page letter stating their professional interests and why they should be considered for the award to SETWG Chair: James Sheppard (spatialecology@gmail.com). Make sure to mention which travel grant you are applying for.

The application deadline is August 31, 2015. Award recipients will be notified by September 10, 2015.

CANADIAN SECTION NEWS

NEWSLETTER

The Canadian Section Executive is freshening up the CSTWS newsletter and website. We hope you enjoy the new format! Let us know if you like it! Send an email to Laura Trout at laura.trout@westfraser.com.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE NEWS CLIPS

A reminder that you can sign-up to receive Canadian conservation news clips. E-mail Rachel Crowhurst at canadianclips.cstws@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.

HELP WANTED!

The Canadian Section is currently seeking members to serve on various committees including:

- Newsletter & Website Committee
- Education Committee
- Awards Committee
- Conservation Affairs Committee
- Membership & Recruitment Committee

If you are interested in joining a committee please contact Matt Dyson
matt.e.dyson@gmail.com

A Message from the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

For many Canadians, healthy fish and wildlife define the very essence of our country. Healthy wildlife are important to our social and economic well-being. Wildlife health is an essential contributor to and an excellent indicator of the health of the environment upon which we depend.

Urbanization, globalization, climate change and other megatrends are creating new and unexpected impacts on wildlife health. Evidence of their impacts can be seen in the increasing role of wildlife as sources of emerging diseases of people; reduced access and safety of traditionally harvested foods; changes in the quality and abundance of fisheries; and increasing disease flow between wildlife and farmed animals. The 2014/15 Annual Report of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) is intended to raise awareness of our response to some of these varied challenges and highlight efforts of the CWHC to protect the health of wild animals.

Our 2014/15 report is now available online:
http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/annual_reports.php

[We invite you to take a moment to familiarize yourself with the CWHC and our activities.](#)

[Yours Sincerely,](#)

[Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative](#)
[Réseau canadien pour la santé de la faune,](#)
[c.info@cwhc-rcsf.ca,](mailto:c.info@cwhc-rcsf.ca)
[p. 1.800.567.2033](tel:18005672033)
[w. http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca,](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca)
[h. http://www.healthywildlife.ca](http://www.healthywildlife.ca)

[The CWHC mission is to promote and protect the health of wildlife and Canadians through leadership, partnership, investigation and action.](#)

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CANADIAN CHAPTER UPDATES

University of Alberta Chapter

After a busy summer for our students and members, we are quickly getting back into the swing of things and planning many of our fall events. After our elections last April, we have a passionate team of new executives eager to host and attend new and interesting events for the upcoming year. Our chapter's AGM has been set for the beginning of September in order for us to have adequate time to advertise our fall events to new and existing members.

As we did last year, we are planning another saw-whet owl banding night out at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, taking members out to the lab to learn about mist-netting, banding, migratory patterns, and the role of the observatory. Last fall, we also hosted a wilderness skills and animal tracking day at Elk Island National Park with the Zoomaniacs Zoology club and the Friends of Elk Island Society. We finished off the night with a campfire and marshmallows, and it was a roaring success - we plan to do at least one or two more of those this year! In addition, we will be commencing our weekly nature walks with The Magpie Club, led by Nikki Paskar and Zac MacDonald, in the river valley located just a few steps away from campus. These walks are a wonderful way for students to get out and enjoy the fresh air and some quality birding between classes.

We are currently focusing heavily on advertising for the upcoming conference in Winnipeg, and will be sending out a few of our members to that. If we have enough people attending, we will be forming a quizbowl team from our chapter. One thing that we did not do as much of in the last few years, but really want to aim for in this coming year, is hosting regular talks and workshops. We think it is such a valuable resource for students interested in what is going on in the wildlife field, and we plan on hosting a variety of speakers and grad students to talk about their research and wildlife-related topics. Other events that will be happening sometime this year is our annual potluck game dinner, an ice fishing field trip, and a potential volunteer day at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton.

Furthermore, our chapter has been contacted to set up a monitoring program for the City's wildlife passages. This is a great opportunity to engage our members in an ongoing, collective project, and we are eager to move forward and find out more about our role in this. Lastly, our very own Mark Boyce,

president of the Canadian Section and our chapter advisor, has graciously offered to take some of our interested members out duck hunting this fall. We are so grateful to offer our members this experience, as it is so prevalent in the field and often difficult to get started in.

We are greatly looking forward to the upcoming year, and excited to meet other chapters and members at the upcoming conference!

Nikki Paskar, UACTWS President

Alberta Chapter

The Alberta Chapter is hosting its much-anticipated, often imitated but never duplicated, annual wildlife conference. This year we'll be celebrating March 4-6, 2016 in beautiful Drumheller, Alberta, at the Badlands Community Facility. Drumheller sits in Alberta's badlands – a beautiful landscape of central prairie wildlife in its own right but also home to some of the richest dinosaur fossil finds in the world. Our plenary speakers will be discussing changing species, changing landscapes, and the changing wildlife profession, and we will host speakers from across western Canada on everything from plants to carnivores, management to evolution. We invite all Section members to attend. We award thousands in student scholarships and travel grants, and have an excellent time, Alberta-style.

The Alberta Chapter is in the second year of its student engagement campaign, aimed at increasing student membership and retaining these students long-term, to address an alarmingly inverted demographic pyramid. We have boosted student scholarships and travel grants, and our student committee is working hard on social media to spread the word about the society and the benefits of membership. We have a new webpage (actws.ca) and a Twitter and Instagram account (@theACTWS). The 2015 conference saw the greatest student enrollment yet, and we hope to continue this trend.

Our next goal is to advance our Conservation Affairs Committee's activities. We have an active CAC and are exploring ways to increase their reach and scope, to issue more public statements and resolutions in support of wildlife issues. This is an ongoing campaign that will build momentum through 2015 and 2016, as we consider additional support for the CAC activities.

Finally, we are sending one student to the TWS conference in Winnipeg, and pending available funding, hope to be able to send one student annually to the TWS conference. Several ACTWS members are attending the Winnipeg shindig, and hope to see you there.

Jason T Fisher, President

NOMINATE YOUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES FOR TWS AWARDS!

Visit the Canadian Section [website](#) to learn more about TWS awards and to nominate a deserving Canadian wildlife professional.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Aldo Leopold Award
Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research
Diversity Award
Group Achievement Award
Special Recognition Service Award

SERVICE AWARDS

Fellows Program
Distinguished Service Award
Jim McDonough Award
Honorary Membership
Chapter, Student Chapter and Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award

EDUCATION-RELATED AWARDS

Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship
Excellence in Wildlife Education Award

PUBLICATION AWARD

Wildlife Publication Award

2015 Awards Committee Chair: Evelyn "Evie" Merrill
Contact Evie for more details: emerrill@ualberta.ca

WILDLIFE TRIVIA - *new!*



photo by: Laura Trout

It is said that Whistler, B.C. is named after this animal due to its' high-pitched warning whistles used to alert the colony of danger.

What is the common name and scientific name of this alpine-dwelling member of the ground squirrel family???

Answer at the bottom of the newsletter.



CANADIAN WILDLIFE JOB POSTINGS

August 2015



Linking Spatial Stoichiometry and Resource Selection to Population Ecology

Start date May 2016

We are recruiting an exceptional graduate student onto a collaborative research program: *Effects of Forest Harvest on Population Dynamics, Distribution, and Stoichiometry in Lynx-Hare-Plant Food Webs in Newfoundland*. Our preference is for a committed, thoughtful, and independent MSc student; however, outstanding PhD applicants with a track-record of submitted or published relevant research will be considered. The project and position are fully funded. Nevertheless, students will be encouraged to compete for internal and external funding; higher GPAs and a history of publications improves competitiveness. The competition will remain open until the position is filled.

Project: Populations consist of individuals that typically exhibit variation in their response to environmental change. The goal of this research project is to better understand how environmental changes due to forest harvest practices affect individual-based traits that could influence measures of fitness (growth, reproduction, survival). The project will focus on two families of traits: individual-based measures of resource or habitat selection, and variation in stoichiometry (i.e., Carbon:Nitrogen ratio and quantity). This project tests the effects of forest harvest practices on these traits in a trophic hierarchy consisting of herbivores (snowshoe hare) and predators (Canada lynx).

Team: This project is part of a larger research program at MUN that includes food-web ecology and ecological stoichiometry ([Leroux Lab](#)) and landscape ecology ([Wiersma Lab](#)). The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work closely with all three labs, including collaborating with two other exceptional graduate students on this research program ([a PhD student with Leroux](#) and a MSc student with Wiersma).

Training Opportunity: This project will provide excellent opportunities for training and developing marketable skills for employment or further graduate studies. For example, (1) Fundamentals: critical thinking, experimental design, practicing and communicating science; (2) Field skills: trapping and handling hare and lynx; biotelemetry; and snow tracking; (3) Analytical: advanced GIS, capture-mark-recapture population estimates, and programing statistical, spatial, and population models.

Qualifications: Applicants should have four main qualities: (1) a passion for ecological and evolutionary theory; (2) an aptitude for and commitment to research in the field – in all seasons; (3) quantitative skills in GIS, statistical programing in R, and experience or an interest in modeling; (4) and foremost, evidence of collegiality.

Wildlife Evolutionary Ecology Lab (<http://ericvanderwal.weebly.com/>): We are a question-driven research group; one of a number of productive and dynamic research groups in ecology, evolution, and animal behavior at MUN. We bridge fundamental and applied questions in evolutionary, behavioral, population, and wildlife ecology.

To apply please send a letter of interest, CV, and transcripts (unofficial) to eric.vanderwal@mun.ca.

~Eric

Eric Vander Wal | Assistant Professor
Department of Biology,
Memorial University of Newfoundland

Manager Wildlife Management

Victoria BC

An excellent opportunity to play a vital role in managing BC's Wildlife

As Manager, Wildlife Management, you plan, manage, organize and implement wildlife management priorities, including wildlife species management programs, research, regulations, and policy to support the health, conservation and sustainable use of the province's wildlife resource. This position also oversees and directs staff responsible for the collection and management of harvest and hunter use data for the province. The position is responsible for hiring technical staff, delegating work assignments and evaluating performance for a team of wildlife professionals. You manage the Wildlife Program budget; assess staffing issues and address succession planning, mentoring and training needs.

If you have an interest in BC's wildlife management and are looking to advance your career in a dynamic environment, we look forward to your application.

In order to be considered for this opportunity your resume must clearly demonstrate you meet the following:

Education & Experience:

University degree with an emphasis on wildlife management or wildlife science and a minimum of five (5) years directly related wildlife management experience clearly demonstrating a progressively responsible management/supervision role OR;

Post-graduate degree (preferred) in wildlife management or wildlife sciences and three (3) years directly related wildlife management experience clearly demonstrating a progressively responsible management/supervision role.

Three (3) years of direct experience managing or leading a team of natural resource professionals.

Required Related Experience:

Progressively more responsible related experience within the natural resource environmental management field (i.e. wildlife management – preferred, wildlife ecology,, environmental management , wildlife health, human dimensions in wildlife)

Experience influencing, developing and negotiating partnerships and agreements with other levels of government and/or stakeholder groups.

Experience in managing a myriad of complex projects simultaneously.

For more information on this exciting career opportunity including how to apply by September 14th 2015, please visit:

<https://search.employment.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/a/highlightjob.cgi?jobid=27791>

PhD or MSc applicants for research on the migration ecology of an aerial insectivore

Guelph, ON

The Norris Lab at the University of Guelph (www.norrislab.ca), in collaboration with Bird Studies Canada (<http://www.birdscanada.org>) and Environment Canada, is seeking an MSc or PhD student to study range-wide connectivity, carry-over effects, and network dynamics of a long-distance migratory songbird. Tree swallows are aerial insectivores that breed throughout North America and many breeding populations have experienced significant declines over the last decade. The research project will focus on integrating a large dataset on migratory routes obtained from miniaturized tracking devices with demographic information from multiple breeding sites to understand variation in fitness and population growth rates. The project will also involve some field research at several different sites, including overwintering roosts. The student will be based at the University of Guelph but will also interact closely with Dr. David Bradley (Bird Studies Canada), Bob Clark (Environment Canada and University of Saskatchewan), as well as several researchers at other institutions. We are looking for someone with strong quantitative skills and a keen interest in migration and population ecology. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Ideally, the successful candidate will have some experience in field ornithology and analysis of movement data. Please send enquiries or your CV, unofficial transcripts and a statement of interest to Ryan Norris (rnorris@uoguelph.ca).

Trivia Answer... Hoary marmot, *Marmota caligata*

Do you have a great idea for a newsletter trivia question or other newsletter content? If so, email Laura Trout (laura.trout@westfraser.com).

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