

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

Newsletter

"The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada"

October 15, 2010

Vol. 3, No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Art Rodgers,

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Lakehead University

As the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society enters its fourth year, I can't believe how far we've come and how much has been accomplished in such a short time. Besides the usual administrative stuff, like the establishment of our Bylaws and annual elections, we have produced regular newsletters and set up our own website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Canada/>) where we can make timely information available to all of our members spread across this vast land. We have learned about the wide variety of wildlife research and management projects by students, university and government members at our annual meetings and this year we sponsored two symposia at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Edmonton. We also provided support for the 17th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Snowbird, Utah, and the 47th North American Moose Conference & Workshop in International Falls, Minnesota – although both were held in the U.S., both were attended by many Canadian members of TWS.

Perhaps most importantly, new TWS Chapters are popping up across the country. In the last year, Chapters in Ontario and British Columbia got up and running. New Student Chapters are in the works for Trent University, the University of Saskatchewan and Grant MacEwan University. We are looking into the possibility of a Chapter in the Maritimes – if you know anyone who might want to get that going, tell them to give me a call! We were also able to provide travel awards to Jen Syrowitz at the University of Manitoba and Becky Cadsand at the University of Northern British Columbia to attend the TWS Annual Conference – watch for their trip reports in the newsletter and on the website to find out just how fantastic that experience can be.

Our Conservation Affairs committee, lead by Darren Sleep, continues to work on a discussion paper of critical habitat – if you have some views on this, get in touch with Darren. This year we put forward statements on white-nose syndrome in bats and we provided comments to the Manitoba Water Council regarding TWS perspectives on wetlands. We have just sent a letter to the Government of Alberta in response to the potential sale and cultivation of more 13,600 acres of native prairie in the Bow Island region of southern Alberta. We continue our efforts in trying to establish connections with other organizations (Society for Conservation Biology, Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, Society of Canadian Ornithologists) that may share our views and support our position on these and other issues of mutual interest – there is most certainly strength in numbers!

In the coming year I can only hope to keep up the pace of progress established by our preceding Executive, particularly Arlen Todd, Jack Dubois and Merlin Shoesmith, to whom we are all extremely grateful for getting us to where we are now. With their continued help, I intend to pursue collaborations with other organizations, continue the development of position statements through our Conservation Affairs committee, develop an education program to further attract student and professional membership and move forward on our not-for-profit status while maintaining an open policy for advice and consultation. As a member of the Editorial Board of The Wildlife Professional, I also hope to ensure Canadian content of The Wildlife Society's award-winning publication – if you have any ideas for articles, particularly with a Canadian viewpoint, please send them to me. We have started discussions with the Lakehead University Student Chapter and the Ontario Chapter to host our 2011 Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay. There is much debate about the best time to hold this AGM – seems there are so many meetings and conferences these days that there is no "best" time but we would like to hear your suggestions.

I don't know that I can get all this done by next

summer but with the help of our Executive and you, our members, I'll do the best I can.

Art Rodgers
President, Canadian Section of TWS



Canadian Section Representative's Report



'Baydack's Banter'

By Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba
(baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca)

The best time of year, in my view is the fall season, when I am able to see, smell, hear, and taste the wonders of our natural world. What better than a colourful display of aspen, oak, dogwood, and hawthorn leaves after a first frost. Or the pungent odour of mushrooms and pin cherries in the fall boreal forest. Or the honking of the different races of Canada geese as they pass overhead, or possibly drop into a decoy spread. And the taste of wild game over a bbq or a wood fire. No doubt – THE best time of year.....

I am sure that each of you have some wonderful experiences of the fall season in your 'special place' in Canada. I trust that you have enjoyed the many benefits that 'your place' provided to you and yours over the years.

And if we are lucky, maybe you will share with us a story or two about that place.....or maybe a photo of something that piqued your interest this fall and might do the same for our membership. I am sure that our dedicated newsletter editors at the Section or Chapter levels would be pleased to include your stories and best 'shots' in future editions. Looking forward to your contributions.....

The Canadian Section held its 3rd Annual Summer Meeting in early July in Edmonton in association with the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). A great job was

provided by the Alberta Chapter in hosting the event, with special thanks due to Evie Merrill. A series of events took place over 3 days, with a lot of interest generated by participants. To lead things off, discussions were held between members of the Canadian Section Executive and SCB members from Canada about forming a coalition of like-minded biologists that would provide an effective mechanism to influence federal and provincial agencies with respect to wildlife and habitat management and conservation. Our Conservation Affairs Committee will likely be moving forward with some of these initiatives in the future. The next day, a Networking BBQ Lunch was arranged where TWS members from Canada were able to get acquainted with their colleagues and share information about wildlife activities in their respective jurisdictions. Students seemed to especially benefit from this event as they were able to 'put faces to the names' of several Canadian wildlife biologists. The Annual Business Meeting of the Canadian Section followed, and although it is often regarded as a stuffy and dry event, this year's was a definite success. Approximately 50 participants spent the better part of 4 hours discussing how to maintain and enhance the profile of the Canadian Section, with many great ideas and observations being brought forward. Certainly the new Executive of the Section will have many options to draw upon in the months ahead, so thanks to everyone who took part. Congratulations to the new Executive members of our Section, and thanks to all who let their names stand for these important positions. And finally, the Canadian Section hosted 2 symposia at the Annual SCB Conference, both of which attracted considerable interest. The first of these was entitled 'Sustainable Use in Wildlife Conservation' and focused on the use of hunting as a tool for sustaining wildlife and their habitats. The second symposium was 'Caribou Conservation: International Perspectives on Management and Policy' and it identified various strategies that are being used globally to conserve this important wildlife resource. The SCB Conference continued for a number of additional days, and much of the program was closely related to what The Wildlife Society does, so all in all, a great opportunity was had for continuing collaboration.

Of course the next 'big event' on the annual TWS agenda is the Annual Conference, just completed a few weeks ago.

This year represented the 17th time that wildlifera gathered to network, exchange ideas, provide information, and promote The Wildlife Society. Snowbird, Utah was the host location for this year's event, and its scenery, wildlife, and local issues were highlights indeed. This is of course the time that TWS Council meets to discuss issues and plans for the future. Council meetings are open to everyone, and several Canadian Section members took part

in the sessions. Some ‘bullet points’ that come to mind from this year’s meetings of Council include:

- Wini Kessler, recently retired from the US Forest Service and now residing in Prince George, BC was introduced as the TWS new Vice-President, and she will carry forward to the role of President-Elect, president, and Immediate Past President over the next 4 years. Congratulations Wini! Great to have a Canadian at the ‘top’ of TWS.....
- The Wildlife Society Bulletin will officially recommence publication and distribution in January 2011. This important journal was set aside a few years back, but Council decided that we needed the content, especially from field managers, so as to more fully ensure that all areas of our profession are recognized.....
- Wiley-Blackwell has become the new publisher for all TWS journal publications. Their multinational and integrated approach to marketing and distribution should pay handsome dividends to our Society in the coming years.....
- Several revised TWS position statements were approved by Council, and many more are being brought forward for review and comment. These position statements represent the collective view of TWS members, and their continual updating proves to be important for optimizing TWS contributions.....
- Due to Hilton Hotel difficulties in Pittsburgh, Council approved relocation of the 2011 Annual Conference to the Big Island of Hawaii over the period November 5-10, 2011. The host hotel will be the Hilton Waikolola Village, and the event should be another ‘don’t want to miss’ experience, especially given reduced accommodation costs and anticipated airline discounts. I hope that you can make it to Hawaii – perhaps the experience of a lifetime.....

As the days of fall pass before us, I encourage each of you to consider how to best get involved with your professional organization – THE Wildlife Society. Is it as an Executive member at the Student Chapter, Chapter or Section level. Is it as a Committee member for any of the above? Or for the Parent organization? Or perhaps you feel the urge to step forward and take on even more duties. The choice is yours..... The benefits that accrue will last a lifetime Do consider becoming even more active than you already are.....

And as the Hawaiians say: *A hui hou kakou malama pono*
Mahalo

SECTION NEWS

Attention students!

The Canadian Section is looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated student who would like to take over the tasks of “Webmaster” for the section. The duties of the webmaster include regular updates to the website, which includes adding information on AGMs, candidate profiles for the executive, section news, announcements, Canadian job advertisements, etc. We are looking for someone who can make the website accessible and fun-to-read for members and interested people. The workload is about 3-4 hours a month. This work will be acknowledged through a stipend of 250\$/year. Keen students should apply to Art Rodgers, President CSTWS at art.rodgers@ontario.ca no later than October 31, 2010.

Report on the 2010 AGM in Edmonton

By Merlin Shoemith, Past President CSTWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Section, The Wildlife Society, was held in Edmonton, Alberta on July 3, 2010 with 22 members attending. Among those in attendance were Michael Hutchins, Executive Director and CEO of The Wildlife Society and Shannon Pederson, TWS Program Manager, Subunits and Certification. The event began with an excellent picnic lunch and BBQ in Hawrelak Park and then a “migration” up the hill to the University of Alberta campus for the business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chair reported that our net balance with all bills paid was \$5,012.92 and a current membership of 177. Michael Hutchins updated the members on what’s new in TWS and plans for 2010-11, most notably the relaunch of the Wildlife Society Bulletin and the steady increase in membership to over 9100. Also, a student liaison position has been created on Council, a new online mentoring system has been created and a Blue Ribbon Panel has been formed to examine the future of the wildlife profession. Rick Baydack, our Canadian Representative to Council, updated the membership on our positioning to host the AGM of TWS in Canada and sought general support for a bid for the 2015 conference. About 10 percent of the TWS membership is Canadian content but likely there are upwards of 5,000 fish and wildlife professionals working in Canada. Rick also reported on changes in TWS certification where TWS membership is required in order for any person to receive certification. Robin Steenweg, Student Representative to

Canadian Section Executive, summarized that there are five student chapters in Canada: Laval, Lakehead, Alberta, Lethbridge, and Northern British Columbia. Robin began making contact with Canadian student chapter presidents in 2010 and encouraging their input for newsletters and feedback on how the Section can assist their chapters. Robin was thanked for his excellent start to coordination of student participation and input into the Section program; we welcomed Kayla Balderson as his replacement for 2010-11. Darren Sleep reported on the activities of the Conservation Affairs Committee. An information memo on white nose syndrome in bats was prepared and circulated to government and non-government agencies. Darren also reported on a major initiative to develop a white paper on critical habitat of species at risk and summarized the meetings with policy planners from Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Society for Conservation Biology regarding a coordinated response on conservation issues of common interest to each organization. Shannon Pederson described her efforts to inform students about TWS certification and summarized the new mentorship program. President Shoesmith then turned attention to a proposed bylaw change that would see Education, Awards and Audit Committees created. This motion was approved after a proposed Program Committee was removed. It was then announced that, for 2010-11, Kathreen Ruckstuhl, University of Calgary, was elected as President-Elect and Nicola Koper, University of Manitoba, was elected Vice President. Art Rodgers as incoming President took over the meeting and outlined his goals for the Section during the coming year. These included continuing with our current program plus developing an education program to attract professional membership and to increase Canadian content in TWS publications. The meeting was then adjourned. Many members continued to attend the symposia and technical sessions of the Society for Conservation Biology during the following four days.

Brief Summary of Progress by Executive Board, 2009/10

1. Organized eight conference calls of the Executive Board.
2. Added an ongoing student representative position to the Section Executive. Robin Steenweg of UNBC was a very capable student representative for 2009/10 and Kayla Balderson of University of Alberta will assume role for next year.
3. Developed a Student Travel Award of \$500.

4. Co-sponsored a breakfast with Lakehead University student chapter during the 2010 North American Moose Conference.
5. Assisted in forming the Ontario Chapter and the election of officers.
6. Supported the formation and approval of a new B.C. Chapter to proceed with election of officers.
7. Encouraged the formation of a Sask. Chapter that may result in the formation of a student chapter at the University of Saskatchewan.
8. Supported the 17th Annual Conference of TWS at Snowbird, Utah with \$500 contribution.
9. Developed two symposia for presentation during the SCB International Conference entitled Sustainable Use for Conservation and Caribou Conservation: International Perspectives on Management and Policy. Financial support of up to \$1,000 was provided to participants.
10. Revitalized the Conservation Affairs Committee with the assistance of Darren Sleep and Chris Addison. An outline for a white paper on critical habitat for endangered species in Canada was prepared. The Section is prepared to participate in development of a technical review and will work on a Canadian white paper as a start.
11. Assisted by TWS staffers Laura Bies, Jenna Jadin and Shannon Pederson in Section Executive calls. They were extremely helpful in guiding us with parent society input.
12. Nominated two Canadians, Fred Bunnell and Don Eastman, for Honourary Membership in TWS.
13. Circulated a letter WNS bulletin to wildlife agencies and individuals cautioning the human element of spreading White Nose Syndrome in bats among bat colonies.
14. Approved new Standing Committees (Education, Awards, Audit) for inclusion in the Section bylaws.
15. Clarified Canadian Section membership between our Acting Chair of Membership, Erin McCance, and Shannon Pederson at TWS office.

16. Discussed with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Society for Conservation Biology policy staff their interest in a collaborative approach for advocacy of wildlife issues and biodiversity protection in Canada.
17. Initiated a proposal for Manitoba and the Canadian Section to host the 2015 Annual Conference of TWS.

To access the full Minutes of the AGM 2010, please go to <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Canada/> and click on the link which is towards the bottom of the main page called "AGM 2010 Minutes"

Attention: Habitat loss in Alberta!!!

The following letter was sent to the Alberta Government by the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society regarding the potential sale and cultivation of more than 21.25 sections of native prairie in the Bow Island region of southern Alberta:

Dear Minister Knight,

I am writing to you to express the serious concern of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society regarding the potential sale and cultivation of more than 21.25 sections (13,600 acres) of native prairie in the Bow Island region of southern Alberta. Permanent habitat conversion is equivalent to habitat loss for many wildlife species, and is one of the leading causes of species endangerment in Canada and the U.S.^{1,2}, particularly if the conversion is followed by long-term agricultural use.³ Further losses of native grasslands, such as the one proposed, would be a significant loss to Alberta's natural heritage.

Habitat conversion at the proposed scale could pose a serious threat to the conservation of several legally protected Species At Risk, including Ferruginous Hawks, Sprague's Pipits, Burrowing Owls and others. The proposed habitat conversion could pose a significant threat to these and other native grassland species, exacerbating

their population declines. The Government of Alberta's own Habitat Suitability Model Search Tool indicates that the area in question is highly suitable for Long-billed Curlew (threatened), Prairie Falcon, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk (threatened), Burrowing Owl (endangered), and Sprague's Pipit (threatened); it is also suitable for the plains spadefoot toad (Alberta's "Blue" list).

Sprague's Pipit - The Federal Sprague's Pipit recovery team has demonstrated that the areas proposed for conversion are hotspots for the occurrence of this federally protected, threatened songbird⁴. Sprague's Pipits are dependent on grasslands. It is certain that the population size of this species will decline further if more native prairie is converted to cropland. Further, because Sprague's Pipits have lower densities within 900 m of cropland, the proposed habitat conversion will lower habitat suitability for this species in at least 7,700 acres more of the landscape than is actually converted⁵. The Sprague's Pipit is federally listed as threatened and "Blue"-listed in Alberta.

Ferruginous Hawk - The Ferruginous Hawk is found primarily on natural grasslands in southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Between 1992 and 2005 the species suffered a 64% decline, primarily due to the loss and degradation of its native grassland habitat⁶. The Ferruginous Hawk is federally listed as threatened and is a species of special concern in Alberta.

Burrowing Owl - This diminutive owl is a native grassland species and declined across its Canadian range by 90% during the 1990s. Its current population is estimated to be only 795 known individuals (2004), 288 of which make their home in Alberta. Historically, the ultimate factor responsible for the decline in population viability of Burrowing Owls in Canada is thought to have been conversion of grassland to cropland, as well as the fragmentation and degradation of remaining grasslands⁷. It

4 Environment Canada. 2008. Recovery Strategy for the Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) in Canada. *Species at Risk Act* Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa. v + 29 pp.

5 Koper, N., D.J. Walker and J. Champagne. 2009. Nonlinear effects of distance to habitat edge on Sprague's Pipits in southern Alberta, Canada. *Landscape Ecology* 24(10): 1287-1297.

6 COSEWIC. 2008. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 24 pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm).

7 COSEWIC 2006. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Burrowing Owl *Athene cucularia* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 31 pp.

1 Venter, O., N.N. Brodeur, L. Nemiroff, B. Belland, I.J. Dolinsek, & J.W.A. Grant (2006) Threats to endangered species in Canada.

BioScience 56, pp. 1-8

2 Wilcove, D.S., D. Rothstein, J. Dubow, A. Phillips and E. Losos (1998). Quantifying threats to imperiled species in the United States. *BioScience* 48(8):607-615.

3 Gibbs, K.E., R.L. Mackey, & D.J. Currie (2009) Human land use, agriculture, pesticides and losses of imperiled species. *Diversity and Distributions* 15, pp. 242-253

is federally listed as endangered, and is listed as threatened in Alberta.

Native grasslands are a natural habitat of ecological significance to these and many other species. Alberta has lost approximately 70% of the native prairie grassland that it had historically, and now only 5% of Alberta's land base consists of native prairie. As such we urge the Government of Alberta to strongly consider the long-term ramifications of permanent loss of these important ecosystems within your jurisdiction. We urge you to consult with conservation scientists, wildlife managers, ranchers, the public, and other stakeholders in Alberta before deciding to take action that may push these and other native grassland species closer to extirpation or extinction, and lessen the value of Alberta wilderness for all.

We have provided a number of references in this letter that you may find useful. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicola Koper (Vice President), Dr. Darren Sleep
(Chair, Conservation Affairs Committee, Canadian Section of
The Wildlife Society)

cc: Premier Ed Stelmach
cc: David Swann, MLA, Leader Alberta Liberal Party
cc: Brian Mason, MLA, Leader New Democrat Party
cc: Danielle Smith, MLA, Wild Rose Alliance
cc: Alberta Wilderness Association
cc: Alberta Fish and Game Association
cc: Bow Island Grazing Association

Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award

Inspired by the passing of our beloved colleague, mentor and friend Al Franzmann in February 2009, and to honour all of those who have passed on and have contributed to our knowledge and understanding of moose biology and management, *Alces* has established the "Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award". The one-time award, valued at CDN \$1,500, will be given annually to a graduate student entering or

continuing in a Master's or Doctoral program at a recognized university in Canada or the United States. The applicant's research should be directed toward studies of the biology and management of moose within their circumpolar distribution or other ungulates or mammalian carnivores overlapping their range. Applicants are required to submit: (1) an official (signed and sealed) academic transcript of their complete academic record; (2) an up-to-date curriculum vitae; (3) a detailed description of the research to be undertaken (min. 4 pages, max. 10 pages) as would be prepared for a thesis advisory committee; and, (4) a short supportive letter from the student's graduate supervisor. Applications must be submitted by March 15 of the year in which the award is to be used. A committee of past recipients of the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award will review applications and their decision will be binding. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Annual North American Moose Conference and Workshop.

Donations to support the "Albert W. Franzmann and Distinguished Colleagues Memorial Award" made payable to **Lakehead University Alces Account # 50-1606-2051** can be sent to Dr. Art Rodgers. *Alces* is not a registered charitable organization or incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and cannot issue receipts for income tax purposes.

See the *Alces* website for further information;
<http://bolt.lakeheadu.ca/~alceswww/alces.html>.

To submit an application or to make a donation, contact;
Dr. Arthur R. Rodgers
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research
955 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
Canada P7B 5E1

E-mail: art.rodgers@ontario.ca

¹ First-time applicants in the early phases of their research will be given preference but in the absence of suitable new applicants, consideration will be given to previous recipients pending submission of a progress report and recommendation by their graduate supervisor. Previous recipients interested in reapplying should contact Dr. Art Rodgers² after March 15 to find out if the award is still available. The deadline for previous recipients to submit a progress report and letter of recommendation will be April 15 of the year in which the award is to be used.

CHAPTER NEWS

Alberta Chapter

By Dave Scobie, ACTWS President

In July and in conjunction with the Society for Conservation Biology Conference, we hosted the 3rd Canadian Section Annual General Meeting in Edmonton. We also helped sponsor two Symposia at the Conference that were very well received. We are still waiting to hear if our application for funding an Executive Director was successful. Our Conservation Committee has no end of issues affecting wildlife in Alberta. Our thanks to the Canadian Section for writing a letter to the Alberta government supporting our opposition to the proposed sale of 100 quarter sections (25 square miles = 65 square kilometers) of Crown native prairie for a potato farm. The Outreach program is gaining momentum. We are looking at partnering with another organization to assist members of the Chapter in engaging their communities with educational programs. Planning for our 2011 Conference in Camrose is progressing with March 11-14 being the dates to mark on your calendar. Please check our website <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta/> for updates.

British Columbia Chapter

By George Carson (gcarlson@eba.ca)

The Chapter is in the process of identifying officers and trying to get the Chapter up and running. We're looking for a web master and have asked a couple representatives from the UNBC Student Chapter to query their members for a qualified volunteer. We are also exploring the possibility of some of the UNBC students assisting in establishing student chapters in the Lower Mainland and University of Victoria.



STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

University of Alberta

By Kayla Balderson, President – University of Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

I am very excited to report on behalf of our student chapter! We have had a very successful and eventful start to the year. We recruited a record number of students at the Annual Clubs Fair in early September, which is very exciting! A lot of new and passionate wildlife enthusiasts are really keeping this club rolling.

During the week of October 1, Katrina Jansen represented us at the Oilsands Delegation in Fort McMurray. Says Katrina of her experience, "The activities included a visit to the Oilsands Discovery Centre, a four hour discussion with Suncor development and reclamations experts, a panel discussion with native representatives, Greenpeace and Suncor, as well as inter-delegate discussion periods. This experience opened up my eyes to issues within Oilsands development other than strictly environmental problems. I found that Suncor was more open than I was expecting and I found what they had to say to be extremely relevant and interesting, although I still found they skirted the issues on some questions. It just goes to show you that you have to pay very careful attention to the way things are worded, and that there is a lot more at stake in this than the environment."

On October 16th, a group of about 30 students went to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory where the students learned first-hand about Northern Saw-Whet owl migration and banding. On October 20th, we are beginning our lecture series with a talk from the Edmonton Wildlife Rehabilitation Society on "Rehabilitation to release: Providing an essential service to Alberta wildlife." A few days later on October 24th, a group of students are heading down to Calgary to see Jane Goodall speak.

Our Urban Deer Project is up and running for approximately the sixth straight year. We have a very dedicated executive running the project who are coordinating volunteers and telemetry sessions. They are currently tracking three deer in the City of Edmonton and are busy writing grants for new equipment – hopefully we will be able to buy a satellite collar! That is our news for now!

University of Northern British Columbia

By Libby Williamson

September events included a bird-banding trip to

MacKenzie, BC. Fourteen participants attended, spending the day collecting birds from the mist nets around Mugaha Marsh. Amphibian Walk – Despite the rain, about 20 people showed up, and the amphibians were out and about too! As well, TWS helped sponsor the BC Naturalist Society Lecture that was on Owls: the Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter and the Prince George Naturalists hosted a special NRESI Colloquium by John Neville, President of Nature BC.

October events include participation at TWS Annual Meeting in Snowbird, UT. As well, a trip to the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter in Smithers, BC is planned. Already there are 24 signed up for the trip (Oct 23-24, 2010). This is an overnight trip where individuals stay in bunkhouses and help the center out by completing a volunteer work project. The Ducks Unlimited Banquet Volunteers from UNBC TWS chapter are planning to help with event on October 30.

At a Student Chapter Brown Bag Lunch held on January 13th, 2010, the members decided to develop an ongoing research project to look at winter activity of birds and mammals on the University of Northern British Columbia's Endowment Lands, Reserve, and surrounding areas. The areas around the UNBC campus are likely to see continued development (e.g., trail systems expansion, road construction, and residential development) over the next several years, and this project will examine levels of wildlife activity over time. By focusing on winter snow tracking and bird surveys along transects, members will be collecting data on both general activity levels and site-specific wildlife-use patterns (such as areas wildlife corridors across roads and trails). Participants will learn how to properly collect data, how to identify animal tracks and identify birds by sight and sounds and also become better skilled with the use of maps, GPS, GIS, and data analysis.

UNBC Chapter Contact:
(williame@unbc.ca)



JOBS IN WILDLIFE AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

We are advertising wildlife biology positions on our Canadian section website and the newsletter. If anyone has an add they'd like to put up please send it to me kruckstu@ucalgary.ca

There are currently 2 adds displayed on the website.

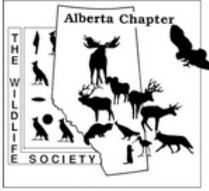
Please do also send me other contributions such as conference announcements, your thoughts on a particular topic that could be relevant to the society, your drawings or any pictures you'd like to see included in the newsletter

Kathreen Ruckstuhl
Newsletter editor, webmaster, President-Elect



EXISTING CANADIAN CHAPTERS

Alberta Chapter



President: David Scobie
E-mail: dscobie@avocet.ca
<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta>

Ontario Chapter

President: Brent Patterson
E-mail: brent.patterson@ontario.ca

Manitoba Chapter



President: Jonathan Wiens
E-mail: jonathan.wiens@gov.mb.ca

STUDENT CHAPTERS

Student Chapter Representative:
Robin Steenweg (outgoing); Kayla Balderson
(incoming)

University of Alberta

Contact: Kayla Balderson
E-mail: kbalders@ualberta.ca

Lethbridge Community College

Contact: Kalista Pruden (Pres.)
E-mail: kalista.pruden@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca

Lakehead University

Contact: Joey Welch (Pres.)
E-mail: jwelch@lakeheadu.ca

University of Northern British Columbia

Contact: Rachel Cairn (Pres.)
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Université Laval

Contact: Nicolas Courbin (Pres.)
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