



Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

"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"

Newsletter

October 2013

Vol. 6, No. 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Evelyn Merrill
Professor, Department of
Biological Sciences
University of Alberta*

Greetings from across the ocean. I am here in Erice, Italy learning about wildlife management of ungulates around the world. It is an interesting perspective on what we have in Canada.

No matter what our everyday tribulations, we enjoy an incredible abundance of wildlife for viewing, photography, or putting on the table, thanks to the conservation efforts over the past century. This is not true in many parts of the world and it is easy not to see our accomplishments and what we might be doing right until we see what is going on globally. Your efforts today as part of the wildlife profession help ensure that we keep Canada among the best places in the world for enjoying wildlife. This is something to be both proud of and but also it can rekindle your passion as you confront your every "battles" on the home front on wildlife's behalf.

On that home front, the Section has been moving forward. Our involvement at the recent TWS meeting in Milwaukee is an indication that Canadians are having a real impact on the Parent Society. Canadians are now a truly integrated force in the TWS because we are stepping up and getting involved. You will see the evidence for that throughout this newsletter with vignettes on member's awards, student experiences, participation in the Leadership Institutes, the range of talks provided by Canadians. Indeed, like our own AGM, attending the TWS provides a network that is an invaluable service. If you would like to become more

involved at the Parent Society, they are looking for members to help on committees and editorial boards. Please contact Art Rodgers, myself, or another member of the Executive Board and the Section and we can help facilitate your involvement.

On the home front in the Section, our first Webinar of the year last week had over 50 participants- a great showing thanks to the efforts this year to Karla Guyn and Meagan Hainstock. Please visit our website if you want to see the list of stimulating webinars on the calendar. We now have established a new position, Section Historian, now filled by Merlin Shoesmith, and we are at the stage of finalizing the terms of reference for this position. Planning for our next AGM is well underway and we are looking forward to an exciting program on a key topic... understanding our roots: *History of Wildlife Management in Canada*. I am excited by this topic because I have always thought it important that professionals, especially the new recruits, appreciate how we got to where we are for both the appreciation of the past efforts, but also because there is a chance a better understanding prevents us from repeating our mistakes. I look forward to the plenary session discussion and hope many of our members who have lived this history will participate in these. My compliments to the newly formed student Chapter of the University of Laval for their concerted efforts in helping in-coming CSTWS President, Darren Sleep, in organizing this event. Please see details later in the newsletter and mark your calendar.

Our biggest challenge this year is on defining where the Section wants to go in next 5 years and to figure out ways to get there. We had an initial face-to-face brainstorming session at the TWS meeting in Milwaukee where we were joined by TWS President, Wini Kessler, and President-elect Rick Baydack. We came up with ideas on member services, conservation efforts, and finding support of both in terms of members' involvement and finances. We will continue these discussions with an additional brainstorming session by

the Executive Board in mid-November. But we also want to hear your voice as a Canadian Section member. Our hope is to provide you with options and get your feedback, via a digital survey in January, to summarize the results for discussion at the AGM in March, and then in the following Section newsletter. The survey is also an opportunity for you to give us your feedback on how we are doing. Until then, there is no shortage of ways we can offer to you to get involved, so jump on board and help the Canadian Section do its part in shaping the wildlife history in Canada that we will talk about in Quebec in March.

CANADIAN SECTION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



*Art Rodgers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
(art.rodgers@ontario.ca)*

Well, another TWS Annual Conference has come and gone – but what a tremendous event it was – and in Milwaukee of all places – who would have thought! What a great city, and so many great places to visit and eat, not to mention sampling the local brews! In spite of the political difficulties that arose a few days before the conference began, there were well over 1300 registrants. The Wisconsin Center where most events were held was a magnificent venue for the more than 79 sessions, including one of the best plenary sessions I have ever attended. The theme of the plenary was “Making Wildlife Science Matter”, featuring Dan Decker, Nancy Barron, Dominique Brassard and perhaps the best-known, Dan Riskin of the Daily Planet program seen on the Discovery Channel, Canada. They all provided numerous tips and ideas for how to get your science across to the public and, in my view, those who may be responsible for supporting and funding your research program as well.

Another highlight for me was the special Awards Dinner. This was a new event that was put on to properly recognize those receiving TWS awards and, among the recipients it was tremendously gratifying to see many deserving Canadians; Ian Stirling received a Wildlife Publication Award for his book *Polar Bears-The Natural History of a Threatened Species*, Larry Bidlake received

the Distinguished Service Award, Don Sexton was made a TWS Fellow, Shane Mahoney was given a Special Recognition Service Award and, receiving the highest honour bestowed by TWS, Tony Sinclair was presented with the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award for distinguished service to wildlife conservation. Congratulations to all!!

As in past years, the Canadian Members and Friends Reception was a huge sensation. Many thanks to Merlin Shoemith, Don Sexton and Larry Bidlake for planning and making the evening a great success. Thanks as well to Lotek Wireless Inc. for their continued sponsorship and support of our reception at the annual conference – we really couldn't afford it without their help – thanks!

Through the course of the week, I had several opportunities to meet with this year's participants in the Leadership Institute, including our very own Agnès Pelletier (Research Associate, Trent University, Ontario) and Jonathan Wiens (Environmental Specialist, Manitoba Hydro). It was great to see our Canadian members among this group of future leaders and I hope we will see many more Canadian participants in the future.

I also got to participate in the first ever Council Quiz Bowl – yikes! Sure wish there had been more wildlife-related questions but I did manage to answer at least one question correctly. Will have to try to do better next year. And, although I didn't get up early enough, apparently “Zumba with the President” was extremely popular – way to go Wini!

Prior to the Annual Conference, TWS Council spent a couple of days in a strategic planning session. Essentially we discussed “where we are” and “where we want to go” over the next 5 years and beyond. We managed to get as far as developing a number of goals and objectives and the next steps will involve “how to get there”. The strategic planning session was followed by two days of Council meetings in which numerous reports and items were tabled and discussed. Here are just a few highlights of the meetings;

- Council welcomed our new Vice President Gary Potts as well as several new Section representatives – Cynthia Perrine (Western Section), Harriet Allen (Northwest Section), David Andersen (North Central Section), and new Student Liaison, Andrew Little.
- Council discussed and approved moving ahead on a proposed Conservation Affairs Network that will provide guidance and outreach to all subunits – the document has since been made available to all Section and Chapter officers for input and feedback.

- Council approved a new Premium Membership Tier that will provide access to all TWS publications, several discounts and numerous privileges – watch for the official announcement for more details.
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, was approved as the site of the 2017 Annual Conference.
- Council approved the Wetlands Working Group for official status and received an application to form a Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group.
- Lu Carbyn (UofA) was approved for a second 3-year term on the Certification Review Board – thanks Lu.
- Council agreed to continue the activities of the Deer Breeding ad hoc Committee with a view to putting together a special symposium at next year's annual conference.
- During the regular Council meeting later in the week, Council approved a budget for 2014 that will keep intact all programs and key member benefits and will provide increasing revenue to replenish the reserve fund.
- Council initiated an Agency Biologist Membership ad hoc Committee to better understand what beliefs or perceptions are inhibiting them from being members at the parent society level and what member benefits might be needed to encourage them to join.
- Council initiated a Diversity ad hoc Committee to analyze the implications of TWS' changed demographics for member services and benefits with particular attention to the increased representation of women and members with young families, students, and ethnic and cultural diversity.
- Council also established a Future of TWS Journals ad hoc Committee to review new trends in electronic publishing and open access journals and evaluate funding options through traditional reader-pay systems versus open access systems.

In addition to these proceedings, there was one additional action taken by Council that has personal implications; Council approved a revised "Rules of Governance for The Wildlife Professional". The Committee involved in reviewing the Rules recommended that "TWS Council will have a liaison to the EAB but no member of Council will serve as an EAB member". I have been asked to be the Council liaison to the Editorial Advisory Board but I will have to give up my position as a member of the EAB. If you are interested in representing Canada on the EAB, please let me know or contact Lisa Moore or Steve Belinda. In addition, this means that I will no longer be preparing and sending the "Canadian Clips" to the TWP editorial staff and our Section members – I will continue doing this until a replacement is found but we need someone else to "step up" and take over this service to our members – let me know if you are interested.

If you couldn't make it to the Annual Conference this year, we sure hope to see you in Pittsburgh next October 25-30. Until then, I hope you are making plans to attend our Canadian Section AGM in Quebec City in March – sponsored by the Laval Student Chapter; it's going to be a fantastic time in one of Canada's most beautiful cities. In the meantime, I will get on with doing the best I can to represent our Canadian interests on the various TWS sub-committees that I have been asked to serve on. If you have any concerns or ideas about how TWS can better serve your needs, please let me know.

CANADIAN SECTION NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come visit beautiful Quebec City for the next Canadian Section AGM!



The next CSTWS AGM meeting will be held in Quebec city, **March 28-30, 2014**. The meeting is being organized by Darren Sleep (currently President Elect CSTWS), Orphé Bichet (Past President Laval Student chapter), Alexandre Rasiulis (President Laval Student Chapter) and other members of the the Université de Laval Student Chapter. *For more information please contact Darren Sleep or Orphé Bichet.*

Call for nominations for CSTWS executive

The CSTWS is looking for members and interested parties in nominating themselves or others for the positions of President-Elect and Vice-President for the upcoming March 2014 terms.

The Vice-President serves for ~1 year, while the President-Elect will be expected to become President and then Past Presidents and thus be involved in the Section executive for 3 years. Please send nominations to the Past President, Kathreen Ruckstuhl, at kruckstu@ucalgary.ca by December 1st, 2013.

Report on TWS Milwaukee meeting by CSTWS student travel grant recipient, Stacey Elmore

Due to the generosity of the TWS Canadian Section I received a travel award to the 20th Annual Wildlife Society Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Although I've been a member for a few years, this was my first opportunity to attend a TWS conference and it was a great experience. The laid-back atmosphere really made me realize what a friendly group wildlife people are!

I'm a PhD student from the University of Saskatchewan in Veterinary Microbiology. My research is focused on the occurrence and detection of parasites in a large goose colony in Nunavut, with a focus on *Toxoplasma gondii*. This parasite can be transmitted from animals to people and I am investigating the potential role of Lesser Snow Geese and Ross's Geese in the arctic transmission cycle. I am using occupancy modeling to reduce potential bias in seroprevalence estimates from geese and arctic foxes and, as a framework to guide organ testing in geese.

At the conference, I presented a piece of my thesis project in the Student Research In Progress poster session and received some valuable feedback. As a person with a wildlife disease focus, I was happy with the number of wildlife disease-oriented sessions. I was able to attend the Wildlife Diseases Working Group meeting and had a great time at the Canadian Section Reception. Also, I was able to connect with friends and colleagues from jobs and degrees past.

Thank you, Canadian Section, for this great opportunity! I truly appreciate being the recipient of this year's Travel Award.



Stacey Elmore
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Canadians as leaders or recipients of awards in The Wildlife Society during 2013

Below a list prepared by Merlin Shoesmith (our very own CSTWS historian) of notable Canadians of 2013 we should be proud of:

Wini Kessler	Past President
Rick Baydack	President-Elect
Art Rodgers	Canadian Section Rep
Evie Merrill	JWM Editor
Mark Boyce	Program Chair, Winnipeg 2015
Lu Carbyn	Wildlife Certification Committee
Rick Baydack	Chair, TWS Strategic Planning
Jonathan Wiens	from Manitoba Hydro; Leadership Institute graduate
Agnes Pelletier	from Trent University; Leadership Institute graduate
Don Sexton	TWS Fellow Award
Larry Bidlake	Distinguished Service Award
Ian Stirling	2013 Book of the Year Award on Polar Bears
Tony Sinclair	Aldo Leopold Memorial Award for distinguished service to wildlife conservation

Four Student Volunteers in Training sponsored by University of Manitoba: **Andrew Benger, Karolyn Maslanka, Jessica Lockhart, Matt Tower**

Brief summary of some Canadian highlights at the TWS conference in Milwaukee

The TWS conference was well attended despite the US federal shutdown. The Canadian Reception, organized by Merlin Shoesmith, Don Sexton and Larry Bidlake, was very popular and noisy. **Lotek** sponsored the reception again (and has sponsored for the past 4-5 years). They offered a radio collar in a raffle, won by Krista Kenyon, and handed out numerous gifts in a draw. Card and Heads or Tails Raffles provided some excitement at times other than the cash bar and food samplers. Speakers at the reception were:

- Evie Merrill, Section President who greeted all and received new Canadian Section gavel for presidents.
- Art Rodgers, Section Rep. who spoke about membership and activities in TWS
- Darren Sleep, President-Elect spoke about Section AGM in March 2014
- Agnes Pelletier and Jonathan Wiens spoke about their experience with the Leadership Institute program
- Stacey Elmore, winner of the CSTWS student travel award, offered her impressions of the conference and

thanked the Section for the support.

Below are some pictures of notable Canadian award recipients at the 2013 Milwaukee TWS meeting:

Distinguished Service Award

Larry Bidlake – Canadian Section

Larry Bidlake has been a part of The Wildlife Society throughout his career, as a Founding Member of the Manitoba Chapter, member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section, and the Canadian Section. He was a ‘doer’; an active participant often assuming a leadership role in subunit activities. In his 47 years as a biologist and manager of Natural Resources with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Larry constantly strived to designate the province’s wild and naturally significant places as Wildlife Management Areas. Hundreds of acres of river, natural prairies, grouse habitat, and forest have been protected as a result of Larry’s efforts. He constantly interacted with the public, educating farmers, businessmen, hunters, and environmentalists about wildlife and the land that sustains it.



Larry Bidlake receiving the TWS Distinguished Service Award from Wini Kessler (Past president TWS)

Wildlife Publication Awards

BOOK – Ian Sterling

Book: Polar Bears – The Natural History of a Threatened Species. 2011. Ian Sterling compresses the major new discoveries of the last 40 years of research on this iconic mammal into a new, easily readable and scientifically comprehensive book about the ecology and natural history of polar bears. He explains how polar bears evolved, how they were researched, aspects of their behavior and how the threat of global warming is jeopardizing the survival of this magnificent hunter. Some of the finest photos from several of the world's most experienced polar bear photographers combined with the text to make this book an incomparable treasure of understanding of this amazing mammal.



Ian Stirling receiving the TWS Wildlife Publication book award

TWS Fellow

Donald A. Sexton

Donald Sexton’s contributions to TWS have been lasting and longstanding for close to 30 years. With the formation of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society in 2006, Don immediately became involved with “TWS Canada” in the same dedicated way that he was involved in past years with other TWS subunits. Since the early 1980s when he returned to Winnipeg as a Ducks Unlimited regional biologist, Don has been active with the Manitoba Chapter of TWS, serving in virtually every executive position available. Don won the Manitoba Chapter’s Conservationist Award (2009). There is no doubt that Don is a leader in Manitoba who serves as an ambassador for TWS. Throughout his career in the field of wildlife ecology and management, Don has been a knowledgeable and dedicated biologist and consummate wildlife professional. In his retirement he has become a mentor for several University students. Don’s efforts were consistently directed toward ensuring that wildlife and their habitats were maintained for the benefit of not only current but also future generations.



Don Sexton recipient of the TWS Fellow award

Aldo Leopold Memorial Award

A. R. E. Sinclair

Anthony Ronald Entrican Sinclair is widely recognized for scientific leadership and research, pioneer work on predator-prey relationships applicable to many species, as a leader in understanding large scale ecosystem dynamics and conservation, and having mentored numerous students, developing future biologists and natural history professionals.

Tony has an outstanding academic and field investigation history on several continents. His numerous books and other writings have informed and influenced multiple generations of wildlife professionals, illustrating an important blend of thinking, working in nature, and increasing knowledge. He is a highly recognized contributor to conceptual frameworks in population and community dynamics.

Tony's list of publications is long and diverse, and the grants secured have supported extensive research leading to increased knowledge and understanding of wildlife and their habitats. His extensive work with African wildlife has resulted in actions beneficial to several species and their habitats on that continent, as has his work in Australia and the Yukon's boreal forests.

He is considered one of the world's leading experts on the Serengeti, and his students continue his work on maintaining the Serengeti as home of some of the world's most remarkable wildlife. He relied on experiments and perturbations to uncouple the linkages among the plants, herbivores, and carnivores providing a fundamental increase in our understanding and management of this complex ecosystem. He was also instrumental in unraveling the mechanisms behind the 10-year cycle in lynx and hares involving a grand-scale set of experimental studies on snowshoe hares. The project grew to encompass a vast array of other species including red squirrels, Arctic ground squirrels, Dall Sheep, wolves, ptarmigan, pikas, and spruce grouse. His co-authored book, *The Kuane Project*, is a model of ecosystem-level wildlife research. But, he is probably best known to most of us as co-author of the seminal *Wildlife Ecology and Management*.

Another of his pet projects is the design and management of national parks. Working with National Park Service employees and applying his philosophy on ecological process management, Tony has helped formulate modern park management principles that have spread throughout the world.

Sorry Tony, we do not have a picture of you here!

Letter from the Leadership Institute participants

Dear Wildlife Society Council, Staff, and 2013 Leadership Institute Supporters:

The Leadership Institute Class of 2013 would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the opportunity you provided us to learn how to carry the torch of TWS into the future. We have a new understanding of the persistent hard work that went into forming TWS and maintaining the integrity of the Society through seasons of ups and downs. The generous grant provided by TWS and sponsors allowed each of us to attend the conference, collaborate and network with each other, and learn about leadership, Council, staff, and attendees, and discuss formative research and management with our colleagues from around the world. We were privileged to be taught from the best when we attended the Council meetings at TWS Milwaukee. Behind the scenes, TWS Council is finding creative ways for the Society to grow sustainably.

While not all members may be aware of the inner workings of TWS, we were honored to see Council members' dedicated service to the Society. The examples of leadership we witnessed really influenced us and gave us fresh perspectives on the demands and rewards of leadership. The LI class grew as a team when we came together to reflect on what we learned.

We realized the benefits provided to members when we attended TWS Milwaukee research presentations and networking events. The strength in TWS was apparent through the sharing of knowledge and team approach that occurred at the conference. We also were able to see the opportunities to serve in TWS. For example, the plenary speakers communicated the importance of public involvement in wildlife management and research. We have the chance to jointly take the science to the people through TWS.

We learned so much during the LI that it is impossible to describe it all. In fact, we are still processing everything that happened at TWS Milwaukee. Overall, the LI class developed a personal sense of leadership and purpose in the wildlife field. The wildlife profession can be one with few jobs and numerous applicants. However, we do not need to let the challenges of the field prevent us from pursuing our personal vision and empowering others to join us.

As we look ahead, everyone in LI 2013 plans to pursue his or her vision in TWS. Regardless of whether we are in academia and research or management, each of us plans to do our part and give back to the Society. We

plan to keep in touch with each other and our newly established network to accomplish more for wildlife. Our hope for the future is that the Leadership Institute will expand and continue to develop new wildlife professionals for leadership roles in TWS and every aspect of their lives.

We also aspire to see all TWS members find their niche and excel in their roles as leaders in their own respect. We need active and vibrant team members in TWS if we are to succeed in addressing the challenges of conservation. Thank you very much for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We aim to pay it forward and encourage other wildlife professionals to be in the Leadership Institute.

Sincerely,
 The Leadership Institute Class 2013:
 Matt Bahm, Sarah Bullock, Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, Sarah Hamer, Agnès Pelletier, Stephanie Steinhoff, Rachael Urbanek, Jonathan Wiens, Rachel Williams, and Krysten Zummo



Interested in becoming a Wildlife Society member?

Visit TWS’s secure website at: <http://store.wildlife.org/scriptcontent/index.cf>

Or, If you only want to sign up for the Canadian Section visit the CSTWS’s secure website at: <http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~arodgers/cstws/>

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Winnipeg 2015



The Wildlife Society 22nd Annual Conference
 October 17-22, 2015
 Winnipeg, Manitoba

That the TWS conference will come to Winnipeg was featured at: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/Winnipeg-to-host-international-wildlife-conference-212948351.html> (below is an excerpt)

★ Canstar Community News - ONLINE EDITION

Winnipeg to host international wildlife conference

By: Andrea Geary
 Posted: 06/28/2013 1:00 AM | Comments: 0

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ANDREA GEARY [Enlarge Image](#)

Rick Baydeck, vice-president of The Wildlife Society and a University of Manitoba professor, is eager to show off Manitoba's diversity of wildlife and natural habitat at the society's 2015 annual conference. [Photo Store](#)

You can also follow the developments on https://www.facebook.com/thewildlifesociety?hc_location=stream

Progress Report

(by Merlin Shoemith and Don Sexton)

1. The first quarterly meeting of the Arrangements Committee was held on October 15th for all interested individuals and subcommittees interested in volunteering for this event.
2. A brochure describing the Annual Conference has been prepared and final copy is under review by Darryl Walter and the Arrangements Committee.
3. Fund-Raising has been up and running for some time. About \$28,000 has been raised to date. The co-chairs have found committee members to assist with their work and will begin their campaign in earnest soon. Manitoba Chapter is contemplating another fund raiser in Winnipeg sometime this winter. Other TWS chapters in Canada are encouraged to assist with the fund raising in whatever level that they have comfort with. One important guideline is that we will not approach U.S. based sponsors or contributors until after the 2014 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.
4. Field Trips subcommittee has developed several packages for polar bear tours and is looking at all possible half day and one-day tours before or after the conference. All of them will be finalized for information and promotion during the 2014 Annual Conference.
5. Rosemary Dohan has accepted the chair position for Sustainability subcommittee and will be examining the approach taken during the Milwaukee conference for application in Winnipeg.
6. The Quiz Bowl subcommittee is being formed. It was noted that the Milwaukee Quiz Bowl had 17 U.S. entries and no Canadian. It is hoped that at least 3-4 teams will enter the Winnipeg Quiz Bowl in 2015 and what better way of training for this than to enter teams for the Section Annual Conference in March 2014 and the following year in preparation for the Winnipeg quiz bowl?
7. Subcommittees for Volunteers, Photography Contest, Media Relations and Photography, Local Information, Merchandise have been formed with chairs or co-chairs and they will

become active in the near future. Student Activities and AV and Computers subcommittees will be formed soon.



First Call for 2014 TWS Awards

The Wildlife Society has numerous awards that recognize individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to TWS and wildlife conservation and/or management. Please consider nominating a worthy Canadian wildlife professional, teacher, wildlife conservation group or organization, or student chapter for these Awards – we have many Section members who deserve consideration for these awards, but the nominations need to come from you.

TWS awards include:

- **Aldo Leopold Memorial Award** recognizes a well-established and distinguished career that has been of undoubted significance to the cause of wildlife conservation. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research** is intended to honour an individual's record of applied research over a substantial period of time. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Chapter of the Year Awards** recognizes exceptional achievements by these units of TWS and is self-nominated (often self-nominated). Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Conservation Education Award** recognizes efforts that influence public opinion in a constructive manner and is given in each one of the following categories on a four-year-rotation basis: writing, audio-visual works, media, programs. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Diversity Award** recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting ethnic and gender diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Excellence in Wildlife Education Award** celebrates exemplary teaching and contributes to

the improvement of wildlife education by honoring individual faculty members. Due: 15 March 2014.

- **Group Achievement Award** acknowledges an organization's outstanding wildlife achievement that is consistent with and/or assists in advancing the objectives of TWS. Due: 10 April 2014.
- **Honorary Memberships** recognize continuous outstanding service to any area or areas of concern to TWS. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Jim McDonough Award** honours a person who has made, or is making, a significant contribution to the wildlife profession by being an active member/participant of TWS, especially at local levels (i.e., Chapter and Section. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship** is intended to benefit students who are members of TWS and who show promise as wildlife teachers, researchers, and managers. It is awarded to in-course master's students (in even numbered years) or doctoral students (in odd numbered years) in wildlife biology, zoology, ecology or a related discipline at a university in North America. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Special Recognition Service Award** honours any person or group who has made an outstanding contribution to: the wildlife profession; the general areas of wildlife conservation, management, or science; or a specific area of endeavor, species, community, ecosystem, region, etc. Due: 15 March 2014.
- **Student Chapter Advisor of the Year** is given to an outstanding Student Chapter Advisor each year and is usually self-nominated. Due: 30 June 2014.
- **Wildlife Publication Awards** (recognize outstanding publications in the areas of monograph, book, and editorship) [To submit a nomination, send a cover letter explaining why the work deserves an award along with a copy of the publication to each Committee member (listed at <http://wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards/wildlife-publication>) . Due 1 March 2014.

- **TWS Fellows Program** recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession) – a maximum of two TWS Fellows are awarded per Section per year. Due: 15 February 2014.
- **Distinguished Service Award** awarded within the [Canadian] Section to an individual that has been active in TWS for at least 20 years [and is still an active members] who have served TWS in such a way that furthers the goals of TWS. Due: 15 March 2014 to Canadian Section (see below).

All awards are submitted directly to The Wildlife Society with the exception of the last award. The final nominee for the **Distinguished Service Award for the CSTWS** is nominated by the Canadian Section following a selection process by the CSTWS Awards Committee. Nominations for the Canadian Section's Distinguished Service Award should be sent to the Canadian Section Awards Committee Chair, Mike Gillingham (michael@unbc.ca).

The CSTWS Awards Committee can help review nominations for Chapter, Student Chapter, and Student Chapter Advisor of the Year awards.

All other awards can be nominated by a TWS section, Chapter, Working Group, or individual TWS member (sometimes including self-nomination) directly to the appropriate TWS Awards Committee. Because the CSTWS Executive would like to ensure that deserving members of the Canadian Section are nominated for all possible awards, please consider letting the Chair of the CSTWS Awards Committee (Mike Gillingham – michael@unbc.ca) know about any planned nominations of a Canadian Section member for a TWS award.

Note: Submission deadlines have not yet been announced for the 2014 awards, but the dates above are based on posted **2013** deadlines. Full details of each award can be found at <http://wildlife.org/who-we-are/awards>.

CSTWS Student research

Habitat selection trade-offs, male quality and reproductive performance of female mallards

During the CSTWS Executive meeting on September 19th, CSTWS President, Evelyn Merrill had listed an agenda item called, "Congrats to Jenn for passing her defense". So, along with the congratulations I received

from the various members of the Executive Board, I was also charged with the task of providing a summary of my Master's research for the next CSTWS newsletter.

My Master's research focused on exploring why mallard females breeding in the Prairie Parkland Region of Canada do not consistently select nesting and brood-rearing habitats which confer reproductive or survival benefits. In response to substantial declines in continental waterfowl populations prior to and during the mid-1980s, the conservation of waterfowl populations and their habitats became a priority. As such, various habitat programs were implemented with the intent to increase waterfowl production. To determine whether habitat programs were effectively enhancing waterfowl production, the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Assessment Study was conducted from 1993 – 2000.

During this time, breeding ducks were studied on 27 different study sites in Prairie Canada. Mallards were captured, equipped with radio-transmitters, radio-tracked to locate nests and determine habitat selection, and monitored to determine survival of nests, broods, and females. At several sites, male mallards were also radio-marked to confirm pair status and characterize male characteristics (plumage quality and body size index). Reproductive histories and habitat use data were collected for more than 3500 female mallards. Using the data collected during the Assessment Study, waterfowl researchers were able to demonstrate strong patterns of habitat selection during nesting and brood-rearing; however, research suggested that mallards did not select habitats that consistently conferred reproductive benefits. For instance, mallards would select nesting habitats in areas known to have low nest survival rates. Thus, I sought to evaluate why mallards selected habitats that did not confer expected benefits. Specifically, I looked for possible trade-offs between habitat selection and reproductive performance and survival during sequential stages of the breeding season.

I detected habitat selection trade-offs among perennial habitats and planted cover, such that nest survival increased in these habitats whereas duckling survival decreased. Furthermore, nest survival decreased in areas with greater amounts of cropland whereas duckling survival increased. Finally, the survival rate of adult females was positively associated with increasing local abundance of seasonal wetlands whereas nest survival was negatively affected. Thus, it appeared that mallards may select unfavourable nesting habitats because duckling survival is subsequently greater in those areas. My results also revealed that females paired to higher quality males initiate nests earlier and have higher survival rates of nests and ducklings, and that females

paired to larger males selected nest sites in areas with greater amounts of seasonal wetlands and more wetland area, these habitats being associated with higher duckling survival.

Although there are still many unanswered questions about mallard reproductive ecology, my research highlighted the importance of linking fitness consequences of habitat choices during subsequent life stages. The study is among the first to suggest that male quality may also be important in reproductive success and habitat selection of female mallards.

I sincerely thank Ducks Unlimited Canada and NSERC for crucial technical and financial resources, and Environment Canada for logistical support.



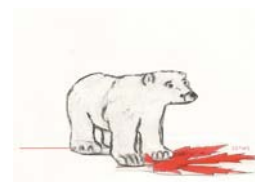
Jennifer Sheppard, MSc
University of Saskatchewan

jennifer.sheppard@usask.ca

Supervisor:

Dr. Bob Clark

Environment Canada/University of Saskatchewan



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Do you have time to help on a Canadian Section committee or do you have expertise that could help us on projects that come up? If so please contact Committee Chairs or the President. We are looking for expertise in:

→ Graphic design to help design membership brochure.

→ Website configuration for compressing & posting videos.

CSTWS webinar series

November 22 – Craig Willis, Department of Biology, University of Manitoba

Title and Description: A conservation crisis for North American bats – A review of the history of White nose syndrome in North America and the latest research results in three main areas: pathophysiology of the disease; mechanisms of fungal transmission; and preliminary tests of potential management interventions.

January 17 – Margo Pybus, Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Title and Description: Time ... and chronic wasting disease ... marches on – If you don't have chronic wasting disease in your region, try not to get it. If you have a little, try to get rid of it. If you have a lot, be prepared to live with it for a long, long time as you document dwindling local deer populations.

The format will be the same as last year, where about a month before the presentation we will provide an abstract/summary of the talk to distribute to our members and put on our website - at that time, we will also ask members interested in hearing the presentation to send a message to our secretary; i.e., register for the webinar - will send out an email notice ahead of time announcing the webinar and asking people to RSVP.

“Have you recently heard a good speaker? Or is there a topic you have always wanted to learn more about? If so, send your suggestions to Karla Guyn, k_guyn@ducks.ca for possible inclusion in the CSTWS Webinar series”

CHAPTER NEWS**Saskatchewan Chapter announcing the 2013 AGM!**

The SCTWS Executive is pleased to announce the **2013 Annual General Meeting and Symposium**, to be held on Saturday, November 16th at the Canadian Wildlife Service Building in Saskatoon. We would like to thank our sponsors for this event, AMEC Environment and Infrastructure and the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Morning sessions – 2 options (details on next page):

Moose Radio Tracking Field Trip 7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Workshop: Home Range Tools for ArcGIS 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Poster Session and Complimentary Lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Plenary Session (Dr. Arthur R. Rodgers) 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Oral Presentations 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Chapter Meeting and Election 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Complimentary BBQ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

The registration deadline for the AGM & Symposium is **November 13, 2013** and early bird registration will be available at a reduced rate until November 1, 2013. To register please complete the attached **registration form** and submit, along with your payment, in one of the following ways:

E-mail: sasktws@gmail.com

Mail to: Gillian Treen
110-1012 Lansdowne Ave.
Saskatoon, SK S7H 2C3

Drop off to Gillian Treen at the Canadian Wildlife Service building (office: 306-975-5224).

Pay online with PayPal- at sasktws.weebly.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Raptors of the Northwest Symposium

February 5-7, 2014; Pasco, WA

The **Raptors of the Northwest Symposium (RNWS)** will be part of a Joint Meeting with several other meetings and symposia, including the annual meeting of the TWS Washington Chapter and the 4th International Burrowing Owl Symposium. The specific dates for the Raptor Symposium are February 5-7, 2014; other meetings/symposia will overlap and/or extend past these dates. The venue will be the Red Lion, in Pasco, WA, which is ¼ mile from the Pasco Airport. The geographic areas to be focused on during the raptor symposium are the NW U.S. states, including Alaska, and the Western Canadian Provinces. Both diurnal and nocturnal raptors will be addressed. The theme is **“Linking Raptor Research to Critical Conservation and Management Needs.”**

We want there to be widespread and diverse geographical and organizational involvement and support from as many agency, academic, NGO, and other land management stakeholder groups as possible; so if you have suggested contacts, we would welcome them.

For more information on the Joint Meeting, or to submit an abstract (for all meetings), please see <http://wildlife.org/washington/sites/wildlife.org.washington/files/images/2014%20Joint%20Meeting%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>. Please specify that you are interested in the RNWS.

Jeffrey L. Lincer, Raptor Symposium Organizer
SoCal Chapter Rep. to TWS WS
JeffLincer@gmail.com; (619) 668-0032





15TH NORTH AMERICAN
CARIBOU WORKSHOP
12-16 MAY 2014
WHITEHORSE - YUKON

ANNOUNCEMENT –
15TH NORTH AMERICAN CARIBOU WORKSHOP

12-16 May 2014
Whitehorse, Yukon

The 15th North American Caribou Workshop will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon, from 12-16 May 2014, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Center on the banks of the Yukon River.

The theme of the workshop is “Caribou Conservation and Management: What’s Working?” It has been three decades since the first North American Caribou Workshop was held in Whitehorse in 1983. With the 15th Workshop returning to Whitehorse, it is a fitting opportunity to examine what we have achieved, as managers, biologists, and other interested groups with respect to advancing caribou conservation and management. Have we been successful in our efforts to ensure caribou populations are being managed in a sustainable fashion? What has worked, what hasn’t worked, and what can we do differently? A full day will be devoted to presentations dealing explicitly with conservation and management initiatives throughout North America, and elsewhere, that address these questions.

In addition to three days of technical sessions, there will be one day of workshops on May 12 and a field trip day on May 16. Registration and abstract submission will be conducted on-line through our website at www.2014nacw.ca, and will begin in July 2013.

On behalf of the organizing committee of the 15th North American Caribou Workshop, we look forward to an exciting meeting and hope to see you in Whitehorse in May 2014.

11th National Wild Turkey Symposium January 2016, Tucson, AZ

The National Wild Turkey Symposium seeks original research and synthesis papers on the ecology and management of wild turkeys for presentation at the Symposium and publication in the Proceedings. The Symposium occurs every 5 years and brings together state, federal and private wild turkey researchers, land managers, and enthusiasts to exchange ideas relative to ensuring sustainability of the wild turkey resource.

Contributed papers will be peer-reviewed. Submissions can include presentation of original results, case studies, and review articles of pertinent topics. The proposed areas of emphasis for the Symposium include: understanding the future of wild turkey habitat; delivery of science to affect policy; science behind hunter recruitment and retention; and maintaining sustainable wild turkey populations.

Process: Authors are asked to submit an abstract by **20 September 2013**. The abstract is limited to 300 words, not including the title, author(s), and author(s) affiliation(s). The abstract must include contact information for the corresponding author. Submit abstracts to: darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com with

“Wild Turkey Symposium abstract” in the email subject line. An Editorial Board will review all submitted abstracts and authors of selected abstracts will be asked to submit a full manuscript for consideration. Authors of accepted manuscripts are expected to present their work at the Symposium in Tucson. The Proceedings will be available at or soon after the Symposium.

Key Dates:

- Abstracts due Sept. 20, 2013
- Manuscripts invited Nov. 15, 2013
- Initial manuscripts submission due Aug. 8, 2014

For more Information: Please direct questions to the Symposium Editor: Dr. Darren A. Miller, Weyerhaeuser Company, P.O. Box 2288, Columbus, MS, 39704; (662) 245-5249; darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com.

Please feel free to distribute this Call for Papers to appropriate contacts.



JOBS IN WILDLIFE

Graduate opportunities in quantitative ecology

I am looking for one or more students interested in quantitative ecology to join my lab. Potential research projects include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Development of a modeling/decision analysis framework for managing shallow lakes in Minnesota.
2. Methods to extend the model-based sightability modeling framework (see Fieberg, J., M. Alexander, S. Tse, and K. St. Clair. 2013. Abundance estimation with sightability data: a Bayesian data augmentation approach. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 4:854–864.) to allow consideration of: a) multi-year survey data; b) measurement error associated with group sizes;

or c) a spatially-explicit or habitat-based modeling framework. 3. A comparative study of non-parametric approaches to modeling spatio-temporal patterns in the risk of mortality. To assess the overlap in our interests, and your competitiveness for admission to our program, please send a single document to jfieberg@umn.edu, containing: 1. A letter describing your background and research interests, particularly as it relates to statistical/quantitative ecology. Why are you interested in coming to the University of Minnesota and, more specifically, working with me? 2. A CV, including a list of relevant courses, GPA, and GRE scores 3. Contact information (name, email, phone number) for three references

Although I will continue to screen applicants, please try to submit this information by November 15, 2013 for greatest consideration. Also, if you will be attending the TWS meeting in Milwaukee, please contact me ahead of time, and we may be able to connect at the meeting.

For more information about the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, see:

<http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/index.htm>

For more information on my research interests and background, see:

<https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/fieberg-lab/>

John Fieberg

Assistant Professor in Quantitative Ecology

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation Biology
University of Minnesota

Phone: 612-301-7132

<https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/fieberg-lab/>

PhD opportunity, movement of marine animals

To apply for this exceptional PhD please visit: <http://cie-deakin.com/2013/07/19/phd-position-quantitative-movement-analysis-tracking-sea-turtles-seals-and-marine-birds-in-the-global-ocean/>

For further details please contact: g.hays@deakin.edu.au
Quantitative movement analysis: tracking sea turtles, seals and marine birds in the global ocean Professor Graeme Hays, Dr Daniel Ierodiaconou, Dr Rebecca Lester, Dr John Arnould and Professor Gerry Quinn School of Life and Environmental Sciences Deakin University (Warrnambool) Australia.

The last decade has seen the development of reliable satellite tracking equipment that has allowed routine

long-term (months to years) tracking of a range of marine vertebrates including turtles, seals and sea birds. This project will focus on examining a number of cutting-edge questions related to patterns of movement and habitat use including both “blue skies” questions on animal orientation as well as more applied questions on marine conservation planning.

This studentship will suit candidates with interests in quantitative ecology, statistics and ecological or mathematical modeling or computer science, given its focus on quantitative movement analysis, GIS data analysis and data mining techniques. It may also suit students with interests in marine vertebrate ecology, as it will involve some targeted deployment of tracking equipment onto marine vertebrates at sites around the world.

Some of the contemporary questions that will be addressed include: Orientation of sea turtles travelling across the open ocean: Using data-sets emerging from long-term tracking of adult loggerhead turtles travelling across the Mediterranean from their breeding grounds in Greece, green turtles travelling across the Indian Ocean from their breeding grounds on the Chagos Archipelago as well as juvenile loggerhead turtles moving in the South Pacific, the student will examine whether turtles show directed swimming to take account of current advection that may lead them off-route and how they approach and locate isolated targets such as small islands. In this way the extent and resolution of the geospatial map that turtles use will be assessed in relation to laboratory experiments that have shown the potential for turtles to use geomagnetic maps in long-distance movements.

Habitat use by both breeding and foraging turtles: Using tracking data from around the world (including the Indian Ocean, Pacific and Atlantic) across a range of sea turtle species the student will use high-resolution Fastloc-GPS tracking to assess the habitat use by sea turtles in both their breeding and foraging locations. The extent of space use will be compared to habitat quality and diet, including comparison between species and populations in different parts of their range. This work will involve GIS analysis of space use and be used to develop informed conservation strategies in terms of protected area designation.

Drift scenarios for juveniles: The student will use oceanographic techniques including Lagrangian drift trajectories and ocean particle tracking models to consider the drift scenarios for hatchling sea turtles. This work will be embedded within questions regarding the ontogeny of migration in sea turtles (e.g. do adults travel to those sites they experienced as drifting hatchlings?),

implications of climate change in terms of drift scenarios and consideration of the global distribution of sea turtles in terms of the proximity of beaches to suitable current regimes.

Meta-analysis of movement patterns across diverse species: The advent of comparable (Argos and Fastloc-GPS) tracking data for a range of marine vertebrates (turtles, seals, birds) allows the patterns of movement across taxa to be considered such as migration distances, course directness and migration periodicity. The student will compare and contrast the movement patterns across a range of contrasting marine vertebrates.

Your job add *here*

Please send job announcements for the newsletter or website to Kathreen Ruckstuhl at kruckstu@ucalgary.ca



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Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

"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"

2013-14 Membership Application

The Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society invites you to join or renew your membership for 2013-2014. To join or remain a member for the upcoming year, please fill out this application form and mail it along with your dues to the address below. If you are joining, be sure to list the member that referred you!

You also have the option to join the Canadian Section when you renew your membership through TWS International (see link below). In order for the member who referred you to get credit, you must send an email to marcitrana@gmail.com stating your name and the name of the person that referred you.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Affiliation: _____

Name of member that referred you: _____ Member # (if renewing): _____

Annual Membership Dues: **\$10.00 (CDN/US)**

Please make payment out to: Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Board or involved in one of our standing Committees please indicate:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Affairs Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Website |

Please mail membership form and dues to:

Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society
% Jenn Sheppard
P. O. Box 248, Prud'homme, SK, S0K 3K0

To renew or join online visit TWS's secure website at: <http://store.wildlife.org/scriptcontent/index.cfm>
If you only want to sign up for the Canadian Section visit the CSTWS's secure website at: <http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/~arodgers/cstws/>
If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jenn Sheppard by phone (306 654-2040) or email (sheppard15_j@hotmail.com)