

4.1 TITLE: HISTORY OF THE SECTION

In 1961, The Wildlife Society's North Central Region had the largest regional membership in the United States not already organized into a formal "section" of TWS. To evaluate options, a Steering Committee conducted an organizational meeting in conjunction with the 23rd Midwest Wildlife Conference at Lincoln, Nebraska, 4-6 December 1961. Eight States within the region were represented - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Besides a large regional TWS membership (695), there were other reasons that justified organizing a new section:

- (1) There were no formal means for instructing the Regional Representative about members' wishes;
- (2) A section might encourage formation of additional state chapters (only 5 of the region's 8 states had chapters in 1961);
- (3) Members needed more opportunity for direct participation in Society affairs;
- (4) Section activities might strengthen relationships between state, federal, university, and private interests; and
- (5) Future section committees might be able to improve upon promotion of members' interests in local, state, and regional problems.

The first organizational meeting at Lincoln was not without controversy. The very active Minnesota Section (as the chapter was then known) was concerned about how its work might be affected by the reorganization. The conferees accepted, however, that aside from a name change from "section" to "chapter", Minnesota's fine work would otherwise continue as it had. Another group concern was the potential for the proposed section to assume organization and planning of the annual Midwest conference, a task thought best left to the host state. This fear was also dispelled through discussion. A motion was then made and seconded to proceed with organizing a section, and no further opposition was voiced. Nominated by the Steering committee for initial officers were Harvey K. Nelson for President and Frank H. King for Vice-President. These individuals were unanimously elected. David B. Vesall agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the first year.

Approval of the North Central Section organization was sought and received at The Wildlife Society's annual meeting held 11 March 1962, prior to the North American Wildlife Conference at Denver, Colorado.

BYLAWS

The Section's bylaws were originally established in accordance with those of the parent Society. Over the years these bylaws have undergone several changes, generally directed toward making them more compatible with those of The Wildlife Society. Some of the more important changes included the following:

- 1972 - Voted to allow annual election of a Secretary-Treasurer and a President-Elect (who would replace the old position of Vice-President). The latter official would succeed to the office of President.
- 1974 - Established a special committee to handle publication and financial aspects of symposia sponsored by the Section.
- 1981 - Separated the office of Secretary-Treasurer into 2 positions beginning in 1981 (and actually implemented in 1983); formed a standing committee to replace the special committee on symposia and publications; formed an Audit Committee; permanently added 2 student representatives to the Section Executive Board and detailed the method of appointment; and provided a mechanism for the President and Executive Board to issue resolutions or public statements whenever quick action was necessary.
- 2000 - Completed a major revision of the Operations Manual and began discussion of Bylaws changes.

MEMBERSHIP

Parent Society members of all categories (honorary, life, regular, and student) residing within the Section boundaries are eligible for North Central Section membership. In the early years of the organization, NCS membership generally ranged between 350 and 500. Through the late 1960s and early 1970s it fluctuated widely, ranging from 164 to a record high of 756. Membership stabilized at just over 400 beginning in 1975. Eligible members of the Society residing within the Section ranged from 695 in 1961 to about 1,200 during the late 1900s. Section membership in the late 1990s fluctuated between 690 and 840.

ACTION PROGRAMS

The North Central Section has been involved in a variety of action programs over the years. Perhaps most notable among the Section's achievements has been biennial sponsorship of symposia on various wildlife management and research topics. These symposia are usually held every other year in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and are sometimes cosponsored by state chapters of the Society. Proceedings are normally published and sold by the Section in years following each symposium. Symposia sponsored or cosponsored by the NCS and the years held were:

- 1965 - Wood Duck Symposium
- 1967 - Canada Goose Management: Current Continental Problems and Programs
- 1969 - Predator Ecology and Management
- 1970 - Wild Turkey Management - Current Problems and Programs
- 1973 - Biology and Management of Pheasant Populations in North America
- 1977 - Waterfowl and Wetlands - An Integrated Review
- 1979 - White-tailed Deer Management in the North Central State
- 1981 - Midwest Furbearer Management
- 1983 - Ruffed Grouse Management: State of the Art in the Early 1980's
- 1985 - Management of Nongame Wildlife in the Midwest - A Developing Art
- 1987 - Pheasants: Symptoms of Wildlife Problems on Agricultural Lands
- 1989 - Management of Dynamic Ecosystems
- 1991 - 2020 Vision: Meeting the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Challenges of the 21st Century
- 1993 - Urban Deer - A Manageable Resource?
- 1995 - Management of Midwestern Landscapes for the Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds
- 1997 - Double-crested Cormorant: Population Status and Management Issues in the Midwest
- 1999 - None

The first activity ever sponsored by the Section was "Operation - Natural Feature Preservation", in 1964. In 1966, the Section sought to establish a speaker register. In 1983, a new conservation affairs procedure was established to increase the effectiveness and frequency of activity on conservation issues. It was hoped this might facilitate communications on high priority items with members, chapters, and the Society.

In 1984, a continuing education program was established to be held in alternating years with Section-sponsored symposia. The

program was designed to provide advanced educational training for wildlife biologists. Our first topic was "Waterfowl and Wetland Management."

Another program involves providing financial contributions to student chapters for assistance with "wildlife conclaves" held at various universities in the region. Financial assistance is also provided for other worthwhile endeavors. In 1987, encouragement and monetary support was provided for the conference "Women in Natural Resources: Moving Toward the 90's."

Resolutions and public statements have also constituted a part of the Section's action programs. Among the more notable efforts were the Section's strong resolutions to urge the Secretary of Defense to evaluate biological effects of "Project Sanguine" in 1969, and statements of support in 1982 for continued funding of the Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Units. The Section also strongly supported the Dingell-Johnson expansion bill and commented on legislation pertaining to agricultural land retirement programs, nontoxic shot, diversion of Pittman-Robertson funds, transfer of animal damage control responsibility, USFS and BLM land exchange, the Indiana bat/Meramec River project, the Lock and Dam 26 project, and recognition of Aldo Leopold.

SECTION OFFICERS

Many well-known and hard-working wildlife professionals have served the Section's various offices.

	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY-TREASURER</u>
1962	Harvey K. Nelson USFWS	Frank H. King Wisconsin	David B. Vesall Minnesota
1963	Harvey K. Nelson USFWS	Thomas R. Evans Illinois	William H. Marshall Minnesota
1964	Arnold O. Haugen Iowa	Bill T. Crawford Missouri	Willard D. Klimstra Illinois
1965	Bill T. Crawford Missouri	David H. Jenkins Michigan	Kenneth R. Russell Ohio
1966	Willard Klimstra Illinois	Forest W. Stearns Wisconsin	Leroy J. Korschgen Missouri
1967	Laurence R. Jahn Wisconsin	J. Henry Sather Illinois	Kenneth C. Sadler Missouri

	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SECRETARY-TREASURER</u>	
1968	Glen C. Sanderson Illinois	Milton W. Weller Iowa	Glenn D. Chambers Missouri	
1969	James B. Hale Wisconsin	L. Dan Frenzel, Jr Minnesota	John B. Lewis Missouri	
1970	Glenn D. Chambers Missouri	Paul D. Kline Iowa	Ronald F. Labisky Illinois	
1971	C. T. Black Michigan	Theodore Bookhout Ohio	Eugene D. Klonglan Iowa	
1972	Theodore Bookhout Ohio	Kenneth C. Sadler Missouri	Daniel O. Trainer Wisconsin	
1973	David Arnold Michigan	Dean A. Murphy Missouri	Keith R. McCaffery Wisconsin	
1974	Dean A. Murphy Missouri	Kenneth C. Sadler Missouri	Alfred Berner Minnesota	
1975	Kenneth C. Sadler Missouri	John E. Warnock Illinois	Robert B. Dahlgren Iowa	
1976	John E. Warnock Illinois	David D. Kennedy Illinois	Charles E. Friley, Jr. Michigan	
1977	David D. Kennedy Illinois	Charley M. White Wisconsin	Franklin J. Svoboda Minnesota	
1978	Charley M. White Wisconsin	Allen L. Farris Iowa	Franklin J. Svoboda Minnesota	
1979	Allen L. Farris Iowa	Oliver Torgerson Missouri	Gerald F. Martz Michigan	
1980	Oliver Torgerson Missouri	James R. March Wisconsin	Gerald F. Martz Michigan	
1981	James R. March Wisconsin	Russell R. Hyer Indiana	Wayne R. Porath Missouri	
1982	Russell R. Hyer Indiana	David W. Erickson Missouri	Kenneth M. Reynolds Indiana	
	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>PRESIDENT-ELECT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
1983	David Erickson Missouri	Lee Gladfelter Iowa	Daniel Svedarsky Minnesota	Steve P. Havera Illinois

	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>PRESIDENT-ELECT</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
1984	Lee Gladfelter Iowa	Donald H. Rusch Wisconsin	Douglas C. Harr Iowa	James Kienzler Iowa
1985	Donald H. Rusch Wisconsin	Charles M. Pils Wisconsin	Harmon Weeks, Jr. Indiana	William E. Berg Minnesota
1986	Charles M. Pils Wisconsin	Robert T. Dumke Wisconsin	George Hubert, Jr. Illinois	P. Decker Major Indiana
1987	Robert T. Dumke Wisconsin	Wayne R. Porath Missouri	Stephen R. Brady Illinois	Edward Boggess Minnesota
1988	Wayne R. Porath Missouri	Harmon P. Weeks Indiana	David Howell Indiana	Lyle E. Naumann Wisconsin
1989	Harmon P. Weeks Indiana	Daniel Svedarsky Minnesota	William Fannucchi Wisconsin	Lonnie Hansen Missouri
1990	Daniel Svedarksy Minnesota	Erik K. Fritzell Missouri	Doris Rusch Wisconsin	Norb Giessman Missouri
1991	Erik K. Fritzell Missouri	Alan Crossley Wisconsin	Larry M. David Illinois	David Risley Ohio
1992	Alan Crossley Wisconsin	Scott Craven Wisconsin	DeWaine Jackson Iowa	Stan Etter Illinois
1993	Scott Craven Wisconsin	Dave Case Indiana	John Kubisiak Wisconsin	Rique Campa Michigan
1994	Dave Case Indiana	Gary Potts Illinois	Terry Riley Iowa	Dave Hamilton Missouri
1995	Gary Potts Illinois	Richard Clawson Missouri	Jim Bergens Indiana	Jeff Kiefer Indiana
1996	Richard Clawson Missouri	Patrick Brown Illinois	Rick Young Wisconsin	Jeff Greene Michigan
1997	Patrick Brown Illinois	Norb Giessman Missouri	Barbara Ver Steeg Illinois	Eric Kurzejeski Missouri
1998	Norb Giessman Missouri	Jeff Ver Steeg Illinois	Linda Parker Wisconsin	Jon Gilbert Wisconsin
1999	Jeff Ver Steeg Illinois	DeeCee Darrow Missouri	Robert Rolley Wisconsin	Dave Swanson Ohio
2000	DeeCee Darrow Missouri	Steve Havera Illinois	Stanley Gehrt Illinois	Scott Winterstein Michigan

SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

1962-1967	Tony J. Peterle (Region III Representative) Ohio
1968-1972	C.D. Besadny (Region III Representative) Wisconsin
1973-1976	L. David Frenzel, Jr. Minnesota
1977-1982	Robert B. Dahlgren Iowa
1983-1985	Oliver Torgerson Missouri
1985-1988	Erik K. Fritzell Missouri
1989-1994	Donald H. Rusch Wisconsin
1995-1997	Diana Hallett Missouri
1998-	Dan Svedarsky Minnesota

AWARDS

In 1978, the North Central Section initiated an awards program to recognize the best paper and best presentation given at the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. In 1983, another award for the best poster paper at the Midwest was added. The NCS established a new Professional Award of Merit in 1984. The Award of Merit is bestowed upon society members residing within the NCS in recognition of outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation.

	<u>BEST PAPER</u>	<u>BEST PRESENTATION</u>	
1978	Erica Nol and Ronald J. Brooks	William M. Heally and Richard O. Kimmel	
1979	Vernon G. Thomas	Randall S. Arndt and Thomas W. Townsend	
1980	Robert M. Jackson	Mark R. Ryan	
1981	William Eddleman	William Eddleman	
1982	Robert B. Frederick, William R. Clark, and Erwin E. Klass	Rex R. Johnson and James J. Dinsmore	
	<u>BEST PAPER</u>	<u>BEST PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST POSTER</u>
1983	Mickey E. Heitmeyer	Robert M. Jackson	John T. Brady
1984	John H. Hart, Henry Campa III, and Jonathan B. Hauffler	John H. Hart, Henry Campa III, and Jonathan B. Hauffler	Theresa W. Shuman and James W. Bennett
1985	David Westmoreland and Louis B. Best	Larry Vangilder	Stephen M. Schmitt, Thomas M. Cooley, Robert Strong, and George Burgoyne, Jr. and (tie) Glenn Y. Belyea, Harold Prince, and Pete Squibb
1986	Eric Kurzejeski and Larry Vangilder	David Urich, John Graham, Robert Miller, and Edward Gaskins	Charles Dieter and Thomas McCabe
1987	Scott Craven	Tonie E. Rocke, Thomas M. Yuill, and Beth Fritz	James D. Garner, Joyce E. Hoffman, and Elizabeth A. Cook

	<u>BEST PAPER</u>	<u>BEST PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST POSTER</u>
1988	Susan M. Haig, Jonathon D. Ballou, and Scott Derrickson	Frank R. Thompson, III	
1989	Loren W. Burger, David P Hones, Mark R. Ryan, and Alice Wywialowski	Frederic A. Reid, Mark S. Kaiser, and Leigh H. Fredrickson	
	<u>BEST PAPER</u>	<u>BEST STUDENT PAPER</u>	
1990	William H. Lane and Thomas Nicholls	Cynthia J. Wong and R. Ben Peyten	
	<u>BEST PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST POSTER</u>
1991	Brenda S. Clark, David M. Leslie, Jr. and Tracy S. Carter	Brenda S. Clark, David M. Leslie, Jr. and Tracy S. Carter	Kimberly K. Kessler and Ron J. Johnson
1992	Guy A. Baldassarre and Chris Dwyer	Matthew J. Lovallo and Eric Anderson	M. Isabell Bellocq and S.M. Smith
1993	David L. Urich and Robert J. Robel	David S. Klute and David E. Anderson	Nicholas A. Stathis
1994	Loren W. Burger, Jr., Thomas V. Dailey, Eric W. Kurzejeski and Mark R. Ryan	Jamie Lafferty and John O. Whitaker, Jr.	Jo Salyers, Catherine Kolkmeier, Karen Tyrell, and Virgil Brack, Jr.
1995	Therese M. Donovan, Douglas A. Clark, Robert W. Howe and B.J. Danielson	Meg Clark, Delia Raymer, Allison Gormley, Scott R. Winterstien and Henry Campa, III	George F. Hubert, Jr., David J. Case, Robert D. Bluett, and Mark D. Duda
1996	Tim A. Nigh	D. Todd Farrand, Alan Woolf and Richard S. Halbrook	No Award
1997	Douglas Siegel-Causey	David Unger, Eric Anderson, and Bruce Kohn	No Award

	<u>BEST PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST POSTER</u>
1998	Not Judged	<u>Laura M. Myers</u> , N.E. Mathews, and J.M. Kozma	Not Judged

	<u>BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION</u>	<u>BEST STUDENT POSTER</u>
1999	Brent E. Jamison	Lori Corteville

PROFESSIONAL AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

1985	Thomas S. Baskett
1986	Glen C. Sanderson
1987	Harvey K. Nelson
1988	L. David Mech
1989	Louis J. Verme
1990	Gordon W. Gullion
1991	Leigh H. Fredrickson
1992	George V. Burger
1993	Tony J. Peterle
1994	Edward Langenau, Jr.
1995	Ted Bookhout
1996	John Roseberry
1997	Not Awarded
1998	Not Awarded
1999	Charles M. Nixon

Materials for History of the Section were prepared originally by Douglas C. Harr and H. Lee Gladfelter and were adapted and enhanced for a NCS handout. Much of the information was extracted from file notes and correspondence; some information was drawn from memory. They apologize for any errors that may have crept into the document. Corrections and additions are

invited. Please respond to the current President of the North Central Section. The Section Secretary is responsible for updating this information annually.

OPERATIONS MANUAL

**NORTH CENTRAL SECTION
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Officer's Copy
PRESIDENT

Revised: March 2000