

North Central Section TWS



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The Biennial Newsletter of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

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The President's Column

Moving Forward, Getting Involved

By Dave Luukkonen

My favorite times of year are seasonal transitions and as I write this article the leaves have just begun the change to fall color in southern Michigan. The changing season is a reminder that this is my last column as NCS President and time is short before winter arrives and the NCS will make a transition to a new Executive Board for the coming year. I look forward to taking on a new role in the NCS and I'm excited by the prospect of having another chance as past president to work with others on those NCS projects yet to be accomplished! As we prepare for our December NCS membership meeting and the transition of leadership, I encourage all NCS members to take some time to get involved and make a positive difference. Invest a few minutes of your time to review the biographies of the excellent candidates running for NCS offices and follow through by casting your vote. As of last May, the NCS had over 400 members representing 17 states and a wide diversity of interests in wildlife conservation—your vote will help ensure that this diversity is considered as the NCS moves forward. One of our most important functions has been sponsoring and organizing symposia during most odd-numbered years at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. We are scheduled to hold our 20th symposium in December 2007 and I hope we can make it our best ever. We had some informal discussion and received ideas at our membership meeting last December in Grand Rapids, MI, but a specific topic has not yet been decided. This is your opportunity to get involved in the early stages of planning this event. The Executive Board is seeking assistance from NCS members with the symposium ranging from your input on topic ideas to chairing or working on an organizing committee. You can bring your ideas to our Membership Meeting on December 4th, 5-7 pm at the 67th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Nebraska or send me an e-mail or letter.

The changing season is also a reminder to reflect back over the past year and take stock of the great accomplishments of NCS members. The hard work of the NCS student chapters was very evident and energizing as I read through 12 annual reports and applications for student chapter of the year award! With all the great student chapters in our Section, the Executive Board had a difficult decision and I thank them for their efforts in reviewing and ranking applications. Michigan State University won the Student Chapter Award this year with Missouri Western State University

and University of Wisconsin, Steven Point Student Chapters close behind. I was very excited when it became apparent that a chapter from my home state was in the running for the award, but I also felt obligated to remove myself from the voting and let others on the Board make the final decision. The award includes up to \$1,000 reimbursement for MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club travel to this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and we will announce the award at the Conference. I am also very happy to report that the NCS Executive Board and TWS National headquarters approved a new student chapter at Missouri State University effective July 27, 2006—we welcome our 21st student chapter to TWS and the NCS! I am truly encouraged about the future of our profession when I consider the high quality young professionals entering our field and becoming involved with TWS.

Continuing education opportunities are important for our members and the NCS Executive Board approved partial funding (up to \$1,000) to support a 2-day grassland management workshop held by the Indiana chapter, September 13-14, 2006 (see the NCS website, www.crk.umn.edu/tws/NCS and click on "Grassland Management Workshop" for more details). This request for funding from our Continuing Education Fund generated discussion by the Executive Board about what criteria should apply for NCS support of continuing education opportunities offered by state chapters. We tentatively agreed on the following four criteria:

1. The meeting or workshop should have multi-state or regional (preferred) applications
2. The meeting is open to all NCS members and is advertised to them
3. The meeting qualifies for continuing education credit from TWS
4. A meeting/workshop summary document is provided to NCS
5. The state chapter requesting the funding will have previously donated at least as much as requested to the Continuing Education Fund.

The Executive Board will discuss this at our next meeting and we welcome input via e-mail, letter, or at our next Membership Meeting.

Have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you in Nebraska this December at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (www.ngpc.state.ne.us/midwest2006)!

Past-President's Column **MAKE SURE THE JOB HOLDS IT FLAVOR** BY DENNIS J. BROWNING

This is my last opportunity as an officer to submit an article for the newsletter and it has taken a couple of week's worth of reflection to grab on to a topic. The whiter my hair becomes the more time I dedicate to thoughtful thinking. Some people might choose to call the practice napping. Either is good for the soul. Here is my final thought.

Early in my career, I was like the character from Garfield, Binky the Clown. He would go house to house at Halloween in a trance saying, ". . . candy, candy, candy, candy!" I, also, was single minded when starting out and willing to try and do anything that was closely related to conservation. Because of my high interest level, my enjoyment in what I was doing was also high. I didn't care what I got paid and in fact would have taken less for the opportunity to work in the field of wildlife conservation. Sound familiar?

Somewhere during the next 29 years my career changed. Reports, budget, and supervision began occupying more time during the week than did the field activities. As long as I kept the machine lubricated and paper flowing to the central office, everyone above me was happy and my life was without chaos. However, the enthusiastic young idealist was quickly letting his chosen profession become a JOB! I no longer got the opportunity to trap turkeys with a cannon net or release pheasants on a snowy afternoon. My time was more valuable sitting behind a desk pecking away the day on a computer and planning conservation. Many times my only view of the outdoors was of Pony Express Lake from the picture window in my office. During these times, I have assumed the character of spectator rather than player.

One can easily let this administrative roll-a-coaster consume the majority of the hours in a week or you can make sure a little of the flavor remains to savor. Opportunities come around if we are able to recognize them and take advantage of them when these appear. I have a managed dove hunt on one of my areas and the additional interest from the public has expanded into several monitoring project that require field time to complete. I have enlisted the assistance of an intern each year to keep record and enter my findings. These "techno-students" can operate a computer as easily as I can a pencil and jump at the opportunity to do conservation work. (. . . candy, candy, candy, candy!) My involvement in dove management has also put me in the position to assist with an annual "Wing Bee" to evaluate dove wings from all over the United States. This can easily be described as busy work, but provides me the same excitement level as a young kid testing his academic skills that were acquired during college. Examples I have given may not be your cup of tea, but make sure you keep your mind exposed to as many resource experiences as possible. Don't let the administration of the job consume your existence. Remember why you chose this profession. Keep it fun, so you can look back and tell the world you had one heck of a ride when it is all said and done.

Section Representative's Report

by Gary E. Potts

Greetings to all you North Central Section (NCS) wildlifers. Many issues and challenges have been discussed and dealt with since the last newsletter. This column will summarize the major highlights.

TWS Council

Council met on three days at the 13th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Anchorage, Alaska. I'll report on issues by category.

Administration

Dr. Michael Hutchins, Executive Director of TWS gave an update on his activities since he started about a year ago. Michael has traveled around the country to numerous chapter and section meetings. He has made contact with over 1,000 members. The various meetings attended have enabled Michael to gain an appreciation of member needs and how he and staff can improve TWS services to members.

Michael discussed an MOU between TWS and The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation. The goal of the MOU would be to provide a national award to an outstanding private landowner who is developing/managing land for wildlife. Council approved the concept and Michael will pursue the MOU.

Michael also discussed TWS's Strategic Plan, 2007-2012 and the comments by the membership. Council approved the plan in concept and a Council subcommittee will work with TWS staff to flesh out the highest priorities for action.

Two budget modifications were proposed and approved by Council to help: 1) with the launch of The Wildlife Professional magazine and development of promotional/marketing materials; and 2) for needed IT/Web upgrades.

Michael continues to work on governance policies for TWS, the budget, exploring MOU's with agencies and groups, and working with partner organizations on coalition work.

Publishing

Dr. Phillippa Benson, Director of Publishing and Information Resources provided an update on her activities since starting last spring.

Dr. Benson and Tom Ryder, Council subcommittee chair,

gave an update on the plans for the new member magazine "The Wildlife Professional" which should be out by March 2007. A promotional issue of the magazine was provided to Council and to members at the registration desk. State chapter officers can use the promotional issue as a recruiting tool with non-members.

Changes and plans for www.wildlife.org

TWS hired a new webmaster, Earl Wyatt, in May of 2006. Earl has redesigned the surface of the website, and constructed a small set of new web pages and resources. With a new server now in place, TWS will begin a total redesign of the structure, design, and functionality of the TWS web site. Features of the new web site will include

- : Monthly updated news and information related to wildlife management and society activities
- : A members only section with high quality resources (e.g., searchable member directory, online topical reference lists, topical "tool kits" with wildlife management best practices, workshop and annual meeting content)
- : Web page templates for working groups, chapters, and sections, the content of which will be able to be updated and maintained by the groups themselves!
- : Links to TWS publications, available for purchase through a print-on-demand online payment facility.

Earl Wyatt and Dr. Philippa Benson hosted a meeting at the annual conference with chapter webmasters to discuss improvements. Chapter webmasters are encouraged to contact Earl if you need assistance. Please take the time to check out TWS's updated website at www@wildlife.org to learn more about TWS services and activities. TWS's phone number is 301-897-9770.

Council approved the addition of a co-editor in Chief to assist Dr. Michael Morrison with the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Government Affairs and Partnerships

Laura Bies, Associate Director of Governmental Affairs, provided an update on the many policy issues and partnerships TWS is involved with.

- : Partnerships - TWS is involved with the following coalitions: 1) Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, 2) Teaming with Wildlife, 3) American Wildlife Conservation Partners, 4) Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, 5) USGS Coalition, and 6) Natural Resources

Partnership (many professional societies).

: MOU's: 1) TWS-USFWS-USGS MOU to promote excellence in wildlife science, policy, and education. Eric Taylor, President of the Alaska Chapter of TWS, and an employee of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided an overview of his work on membership in professional societies by federal employees. Eric is serving in a Wildlife Policy Internship with TWS. 2) TWS - Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation MOU to establish the Brad Rowse Memorial Fellowship to work on policy.

Technical Reviews and Position Statements:

One important technical review that TWS is involved with is on the Impact of Wind Energy Facilities to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat. Laura Bies and I provided an update on the technical review which should be completed soon. Council also received an update on the technical review on Lead in the Environment and its Implications to Policy Makers and Fisheries and Wildlife Professionals. These two technical reviews are of significant interest to state and federal agencies and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Council approved the following: 1) a position statement on the Endangered Species Act; 2) a draft position statement on Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife Species for member review and comment; 3) a draft position statement on The Farm Bill for member review and comment; 4) a draft position statement on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation for member review and comment; 5) the drafting of a position statement on Oil and Gas Development; 6) the proposal for a technical review on The Public Trust Doctrine.

Laura discussed TWS policy for position statements developed by Sections, Chapters, and Working Groups. If anyone has a need to develop a position statement or a question, contact Laura Bies at Laura@wildlife.org

A Leadership Institute was funded by TWS this past year and ten early career professionals were selected to participate. The ten professionals were involved with much reading and activities over the past several months. The group met at the annual conference and were involved with networking, attending Council meetings and other various activities. TWS staff and Council were very pleased with the Leadership Institute and we feel the participants learned a great deal about leadership and especially about how TWS works at various levels.

Laura also presented a proposal for the use of interest from the Endowment Fund as follows: 1) fund a 2nd Leadership Institute for early career professionals; 2) hire interns to assist with the policy program. Council approved the proposal. Individuals interested in the future Leadership Institute should look for details in a future issue of The Wildlifer .

Laura also mentioned that TWS's new literature review on Fish and Wildlife Benefits of Farm Bill Conservation Programs: 2000-2005 Update, is now available from TWS.

Council approved the following Wildlife Policy Priorities for 2007:

Federal budgets for wildlife and habitat conservation, management, research, and education

Energy development on federal lands

2007 Farm Bill

Teaming with Wildlife/state wildlife agency nongame funding

Endangered Species Act reauthorization

Global climate change and wildlife

Wetlands conservation

Federal employee participation in professional societies

Science policy for FWS and USGS-BRD

Wildlife baiting and feeding

Wildlife diseases

Federal land management agency planning/land use regulations

North American Model/Public Trust Doctrine

Membership and Conferences

Sandra Staples-Bortner, Director of Conferences and Membership presented a proposal for four new membership categories. Council approved the following categories: commercial, government agency, family and international. Details on the membership categories will be presented in a future issue of The Wildlifer, and under the membership renewal section of TWS's website.

Sandra mentioned that over 1,500 people registered for the conference. Many meeting participants enjoyed the natural beauty of Alaska!

TWS staff member, C. J. Black's job duties have changed . C. J. will continue to coordinate our certification and professional development programs, while taking on responsibility for outreach to TWS sections, chapters, student chapters, and working groups. This fall she will be implementing a project to survey leaders of our top ten student chapters to assess characteristics of successful

student chapters and prepare a “toolkit” of successful strategies for student chapters.

Future annual conferences will be held in Tucson, AZ in 2007, Miami, FL in 2008, and Monterey, CA in 2009.

Working Groups

Council received a report from the Student Professional Working Group. The formation of student member and student chapter list servers were discussed, as well as a student survey. Also proposed was a reduction in membership fees for the “new professional” or recent graduate.

The Wildlife Diseases Working Group requested that TWS enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildlife Disease Association. Council approved staff to pursue the MOU. Additionally, the working group chair will work with Laura Bies to further discussions of the National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Awards

TWS Fellow awards were presented to James Cardoza, Thomas Franklin, Jonathan Jenks, John McDonald, John Schoen and NCS member William E. Berg (from MN).

The Aldo Leopold Memorial Award was presented to Dr. Paul R. Krausman of the University of Arizona.

The Group Achievement Award was presented to the U. S. Furbearer Conservation Technical Work Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Summary

The work of TWS at all levels takes time and effort by members serving as officers. Thanks to all the members who have taken the time to serve as officers at the student, state, and section levels, and as student chapter advisors! Members serving on committees and in working groups should also be applauded for their service.

TWS has gone through much transition in the past couple of years. Council has worked hard on numerous issues; one important one is that I can report that we are in the black financially! The changes in publications, extensive work on wildlife policy issues, continued improvements on conferences and membership issues are all important to the improvement of TWS.

Berg selected as Fellow of The Wildlife Society

William E. (Bill) Berg, was one of only six members of The Wildlife Society (TWS) to be inducted as a TWS Fellow during 2006. TWS Fellows, who are appointed for life and serve as ambassadors of TWS, have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession.

Bill retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2001 after 31 years of service to the state, and he remains active in the wildlife profession. Bill's recent activities include volunteering for the DNR conducting surveys of sharp-tailed grouse and piping plovers, facilitating habitat management through the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, and serving on the Biomass Guidelines Committee for the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and as Director of the Grand Rapids, MN, Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

The North Central Section congratulates Bill on receiving this honor.

In Memoriam: Carl Becker, 1949-2006

Illinois Conservation has suffered a great loss. Carl Becker, Director of Conservation Programs with the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, passed away on April 13th, 2006. Among his many accomplishments, Carl served as the first Executive Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, past president of the Natural Areas Association, and president of the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 1993. Carl also served as the first Chief of the Illinois Division of Natural Heritage from 1986-1999. Carl was instrumental in the creation of the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund. Following his retirement from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as Assistant Office Director of Realty and Environmental Planning several years ago, Carl had been working with the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The conservation movement has lost an important leader and many of us have lost a dear friend.

According to Bruce Boyd, executive director of the Nature Conservancy in Illinois, “Few people had a greater impact on conservation in Illinois than Carl. He has left a legacy of which any person would be proud. Carl was a person of unsurpassing grace — patient, kind and thoughtful in every circumstance. He will be sorely missed by each and every one of us. No one will miss Carl more than his lovely wife, Peggy, and their three wonderful children. Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes go out to the Becker family.”

(Submitted by Illinois Chapter)

State Reports

Illinois Chapter

by Clay Nielsen, President

The Illinois Chapter of TWS has been busy planning our annual meeting, to be held 13-15 March 2007 near the Quad Cities. Our chapter's "Big Rivers" Committee is currently assembling the agenda and has put forth most of the work in organizing the meeting. Our plenary session will focus on "large river" work, of which we have plenty going on in Illinois (and several large rivers to choose from!). We may hold our conference in conjunction with the Illinois Chapter of Society of American Foresters; last year we met with the Illinois Chapter of American Fisheries Society and that worked out quite well. For those interested in more of our chapter activities, please visit our website at (<http://home.grics.net/~forbes/ICTWS>).

Iowa Chapter

by Rolf Koford

Our annual meeting was in Ames on 3-4 October. We had one half day of technical talks, and a half day of training on dealing with the media. This training session was put on by the Des Moines office of Wixted, Pope, Nora, Thompson & Associates. Effective communication skills are essential to the success of the Iowa Chapter and the constituents we serve. The objectives were to:

- demystify the editorial process and provide a deeper understanding of the media mindset and how it has changed
- understand the importance of forming strong media relationships
- learn how to connect the need to provide public information with advocacy

At the business meeting, the newly elected slate of officers was announced. Our next president will be Willie Suchy, whose responsibilities for the past couple of years have been to organize programs for our meetings. As can be seen from the preceding paragraph, he has been doing a good job (with help from Jim Coffey). We are confident that he will perform equally well in his new position. One challenge that was mentioned at the meeting was coordination/communication with the student chapter.

Our electronic newsletter (URL in the Spring NCS Newsletter) continues to provide a cost-effective means of communication within the Chapter. We also employ e-mail to alert members to conservation-related issues. What did we all do before the internet age?

Michigan Chapter

by Brent Rudolph

It has turned out to be a busy fall for the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society (MTWS). Our chapter supported 3 meetings that took place within our state in the past 2 months. The first was the 2006 Midwest Furbearer Conference, held September 10-13 in Sault Saint Marie at the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula. MTWS Board Member Dwayne Etter coordinated the conference, which was well attended by a number of state and federal agency employees, tribal biologists, and a scattering of university folks. Two additional meetings took place in quick succession in the northern Lower Peninsula. The Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative (MiBCI) Ornithological Congress was held September 22-24, at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Pellston. MTWS is a participant in MiBCI and was a sponsor of the Ornithological Congress, which is now intended to be an annual event. The 10th American Woodcock Symposium occurred in Roscommon, Michigan on October 3-6, and was sponsored by MTWS as well. Attendees from throughout North America and beyond participated in the event, and proceedings of the symposium will be published shortly. Finally, amidst all of the activity within our state, the chapter also provided financial support to assist the Michigan State University Fisheries and Wildlife Club, a TWS student chapter, with travel expenses incurred by 10 of their members that attended the 13th Annual TWS Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. MTWS is now turning its attention to planning associated with upcoming chapter elections, joint sponsorship with the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society of an award that is intended to be an ongoing feature of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and a spring meeting of our own.

Minnesota Chapter

By Stacey Salvevold

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society held two summer workshops for approximately 70 people during July and August.

"Grazing Options for Grassland Managers" was held at the Minnesota State University Moorhead Science Center near Glyndon, Minnesota. The workshop focused on selecting appropriate grazing rotations based on habitat objectives as well as patch burning and grazing options. A tour of the privately owned B Bar B Ranch and a local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Wildlife Management Area was held during the afternoon. The B Bar B Ranch, MN DNR, and Concordia College in Moorhead are working cooperatively to study grassland management using grazing, burning, and combinations of both management practices.

A second summer workshop was held at the Community Center in McGregor, Minnesota. This workshop focused on

Brushland Management. Classroom presentations focused on subsection forest planning, forestry perspectives on brushland management, biomass harvesting, public and private brushland management, and hybrid poplar. An afternoon tour focused on brushland management projects at a site on Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a local MN DNR Wildlife Management Area, as well as a local MN DNR private lands project.

The 2007 annual meeting planning is in full swing. The meeting titled, "Wildlife Research and Management in a Changing Environment" will be held at the Alexandria Holiday Inn on February 21 and 22, 2007. The meeting will focus on the effects of climate change, invasive species, sustainability efforts and bio-fuels on our ability to manage lands for wildlife. Any current research in MN will round out the concurrent sessions.

The MN Chapter of TWS continues to work on completion of a white paper regarding the effects of pattern tiling on wildlife and natural resources. The chapter has made formal comments to our legislators regarding the Federal Wetlands Loan Act. We are beginning the process of rebuilding our website as it is very outdated. We hope to mesh well with the new website that will be released this fall by the parent chapter of TWS.

Missouri Chapter

"Conserving All Natural Resources:
Implementing *the* Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy"
January 31-February 2, 2007

"The Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) is an annual meeting organized and sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, The Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. This unique blend of disciplines, represented by the four societies, promotes wise use and management of Missouri's natural resources. Each year the conference hosts approximately 1,000 established and aspiring natural resource professionals who meet to exchange information and ideas and encourage continued cooperation among resource professionals, agencies, and other natural resource stakeholders. Cooperating agencies are the Missouri Department of Conservation; University of Missouri, School of Natural Resources; Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service."

Plenary Session

One of the three speakers in this coming MNRC will be Naomi Edelson, Wildlife Diversity Director and Teaming with Wildlife Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies since 1991. Naomi initiates and directs all aspects of Teaming with Wildlife, a national grassroots campaign to secure federal funding for state-level wildlife conservation. She also lead efforts to secure appropriations related to State

Wildlife Grants in FY '01-'07 Department of Interior budget resulting in a new federal program that has generated over \$600M

Topics at the 2007 MNRC will include: Missouri's Biodiversity, Successful Partnerships, Streams Management, Invasive Species, Grassland/Prairie Chicken Management, and Integrating Social/Economic/ Political influences on the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy.

The Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society is also one of the sponsors for a symposium of the ecology of the Shortleaf pine in Missouri. The Shortleaf pine and oak-pine forest once blanketed more than 6.5 million acres of southern Missouri. Today's acreage is less than one-tenth of the original. A symposium titled "Restoration and Ecology of Shortleaf Pine in the Ozarks" will offer participants insights about what happened to those acres and what can be done to regain the biological diversity they once provided. The symposium will take place Nov. 7-9, 2006 at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield.

Wisconsin Chapter

Wisconsin State Chapter News

By Michele Windsor

The summer meeting was a great success with new members and their families attending to enjoy the north woods of Wisconsin. Beautiful accommodations at Kemp Station on Lake Tomahawk, and ideal weather conditions allowed for another great summer meeting. Discussions were held on investment and dispersement of our endowment as setting up opportunities for more folks to donate money to the chapter. The winter meeting dates were set and an agenda is being developed. The meeting will be held in Madison, WI, March 6th and 7th at Union Station on the University of Wisconsin campus. A push to increase attendance, especially by students, faculty and state employees is the goal for this year's meeting. Hopes of incorporating training opportunities will be the focus of the meeting. The chapter was able to get its web page up and running. We're hoping that with this new page, involvement and recruitment for the state chapter will improve. Please visit our new web page at: www.witws.org.

Non Reporting State Chapters

Indiana Chapter

Ohio Chapter



67th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

*The Economic and Social Values
of our Natural Resources*

Attention Students!

“Beginning Your Professional Journey”

A full-day workshop for undergraduate students

Are you trying to figure out the requirements and best way to apply to graduate school, or what types of positions employers have for new graduates and what they’re looking for in future employees? Eager to prepare for those inevitable interview questions such as “Why should we hire you for this position?” If so, ‘Beginning your Professional Journey’ is the workshop for you! Four sessions will include Resumes and Professional Correspondence, Academic and Employer Panels, Networking, and Interview Skills. Participants will have opportunities to practice their newly acquired skills during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and will receive binders full of resource materials for future use. Last year’s participants gave the workshop a “thumbs up!” From K. Schnurer, Lake Superior State University, *“This workshop far exceeded all expectations that were held by students. We came out of it with a feeling that we were more equipped to start applying for jobs and for graduate schools. I think every undergraduate should attend this workshop!”*

The workshop will be held on Sunday, December 3 from 8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and is limited to the first 50 pre-paid registrants. Workshop cost (including breaks and lunch) is only \$10!

****NOTE:** Registration for the conference is NOT included in this fee. To register for the workshop, please send your check made payable to MSU to: Jill Cruth, ATTN: BYPJ 67th MFWFC Registration, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 40 Natural Resources Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1222. Please include your contact information, including a telephone number and email address. Questions? Contact co-organizers Rebecca Christoffel (chris317@msu.edu) or Jim Schneider (schne181@msu.edu).

All are invited to:

Annual Meetings of

North Central Section of The Wildlife Society

Board Meeting - Sunday, Dec 3 from 5:00 to 7:00

Member Meeting - Monday, Dec 4 from 5:00 to 7:00

Student Chapter Reports

Ball State University

By James Whatton, President

The Ball State University Chapter of The Wildlife Society has seen an extremely busy spring. As always we conduct our meetings every other week and bring in speakers for these meetings. This semester we have had a variety of topics. So far we have had one of our own students present his research on flying squirrels and a presentation on the South Africa field course that our Biology department offers. Brian McGowan came to present on wildlife crop damage; he enlightened us on some of the myths and the truths to which animals were causing damage. We also had a nice homecoming for one of our former presidents, Joe Allen, who came to present his research on the breeding behavior of the Western grebe. In our last meeting we had a Show and Tell in which our members brought their pets in and gave a short talk to inform us on their background.

Along with our meetings we have been busy with activities. To start out the semester, we helped out Cliff Chapman with a habitat restoration project at Baseline Barrens Nature Preserve in southern Indiana. We volunteered at Great Cats of Indiana again, which is a rescue facility and sanctuary for large cats and other carnivores. We spent a Saturday helping out these big felines by working on an enclosure. At the end of the hard working day, we had an opportunity to interact with tiger and mountain lion cub. A couple weekends ago we traveled to Brown County, Indiana to meet up with Zach Walker, the state herpetologist. We had a great time finding and learning about the frogs, salamanders, and snakes of Indiana, all with hands-on experience! This semester we had very successful day when we set up mist nets on a Saturday morning. We caught 24 birds over 9 species as well as we had the opportunity to band all the birds and collect blood samples from the chickadees we caught.

Although the school year is winding down, we still have Earth Day to participate in. For Earth Day The Wildlife Society has a booth as well as we have written a grant to bring Great Cats of Indiana to campus to present on conservation. Our last meeting is our annual cookout, which we are all looking forward to good food and good times to end the year! For more information on our chapter, please visit our website at <http://www.bsu.edu/web/bsutws/>.

Hocking College

We've begun another dynamite year at Hocking College. We've added 30 new members to the roster and have had avid interest in new projects. Our biggest projects so far include:

Timber and Outdoor show: This was the first year for the Hocking College Timber and Outdoor Show. The chapter sponsored three student teams to compete in the student lumberjack competition, with the Huskie Muskie team taking first. The chapter also ran an informational booth for the

weekend. Special features included a muzzleloader raffle and selling cotton candy.

Highway Clean-up: This is our gold star year for adopt-a-highway. For five years, we have been picking up trash along a section of SR 33. It's important to continue this project, not just for beautification but for the benefit of wildlife. This is also a great interaction activity for our members with a pizza party afterwards.

Chapter Outreach: Southeast Ohio is lucky this year, having two prominent organizations begin chapters in the area. Quality Deer Management Assoc. (QDMA) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) have chartered chapters in Athens County. Both organizations have had representatives speak to the chapter about important issues involving the respective chapter.

The rest of our quarter is jam-packed with continuing projects and new activities for our members to enhance their knowledge and gain positive skills in wildlife management and natural resources.

Blennerhassett Deer Drive: Again this year we will be counting deer on the Island of Blennerhassett to assist West Virginia's DNR with their survey on the island.

Lake Snowden Youth Hunt: We provide an opportunity for youth in the area to get a jump start on the hunting season. We serve as "guides" and boat operators for the weekend. We also check-in any deer that are harvested.

The Wilds: For the first time we will be going to The Wilds as a brand new activity. We will be working on a project they have for the first part of the day then have a behind the scenes tour of the exotic animal preserve.

Deer check stations: Members will be traveling to West Virginia and the surrounding area to serve the deer check stations during the gun season. We collect biological information as well and tagging in deer harvested.

University of Illinois

by Geriann Albers, President

The University of Illinois student chapter of The Wildlife Society is off to an impressive and productive fall semester. At the beginning of August, we hosted a booth at the campus-wide Quad Day, and recruited 172 new people to our e-mail list. We had 30 students attend our first meeting in September. The new board members introduced themselves, and the group discussed changes to meeting structure and future plans for the year. In order to welcome everyone to campus and to the Wildlife Society, we held a cookout on September 27th, at Illini Grove on campus. Thirty-five students showed up to relax, eat, and interact with fellow members. Our future meetings will include many speakers from around the area. Jeff Walk, who is a UIUC

alumnus, completed his Ph. D here studying avian ecology. He is now an active ornithologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, and he will be discussing his current research with the historic Graber Bird Survey and its modern counterpart that was conducted this summer. Mike Jeffords, who also received his Ph. D from the University of Illinois, will be discussing wildlife photography in November. We are pursuing battery and newspaper recycling programs in conjunction with the Veterinary Medicine Wildlife Rehab Clinic. During the month of October, we will be participating in a fish shocking project with the local American Fisheries Society. We will also be going to a local state park in Indiana to camp and clean up trash on the trails. Our main focus for the future, however, is to organize a research project that will provide field experience for the members and quality data for local wildlife managers. We are considering studies involving site-level surveys of deer populations in local natural areas or regional surveys of

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

By Lauren Noffke

The Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) Student Chapter of TWS has been busy trying to build our membership and becoming more active in field activities. Our university does not have a “wildlife major” by definition, rather those students interested in wildlife are generally zoology majors. This makes it a little difficult to identify students early in their careers who may be a part of the organization. However, we appear to be increasing our success, as our group has grown considerably over the last year. We are currently involved with two major activities intended to improve our familiarity with the wildlife profession: (1) a snake hibernacula project at nearby Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, and (2) a deer research project on SIUC campus. The snake project involves monitoring 4 man-made hibernacula for snake use; currently we are visiting hibernacula several times a week and assessing snake sign at hibernacula entrances (think of scent stations). For the deer project we will be partaking in spotlight surveys this fall and vegetation surveys during 2007. In addition to these more “research-oriented” activities, we also engage in social gatherings such as hikes and small get-togethers intended to promote synergy in the group. All in all, we expect a fantastic 2006-07 school year!



Michigan State University

by Kevin Geyer, President

The summer and fall of 2006 have been as busy as usual for the Michigan State University Fisheries and Wildlife Club, as we progress now through the fall semester of school. Many updates have been made concerning the club’s property owned on campus (our Management Area, which we use for giving members hands-on experience with many wildlife management techniques). Ten club members had the wonderful experience of visiting Anchorage, AK, and attending the 13th annual The Wildlife Society Conference in late September. Numerous fundraising activities have also continued, along with many educational experiences for members. All this in addition to being named the NCS Student Chapter of the Year for 2005! I couldn’t be more proud of my peers that have worked so hard in making our accomplishments worthy of this award.

As mentioned, our Management Area has undergone many planned changes for the future. Working with campus administrators and officials, we have decided to remove much of our current woody vegetation to make way for a native prairie. This work entails much planning (vegetation removal, fire-break installation, and the \$\$\$ to do it all), but should pay off well in the future when the prairie can be burned on an appropriate schedule, giving club members a rare experience in which to be involved. An interpretive trail will also be installed alongside the prairie, to double as the fire-break during prescribed burns. Some invasive species removal has also taken place this semester already in the Management Area, particularly against buckthorn and autumn-olive. Finally, we are planning our annual small mammal trapping to take place in the next month.

Our adventures in Alaska for The Wildlife Society Conference were amazing. Fundraising over the last year allowed us to take ten club members at little cost to themselves. Many symposia and networking events were attended in order to further our connections with fellow students, teaching faculty, and field professionals. We would like to thank TWS for their wonderful planning in making this conference both useful and fun for us student participants.

Other club activities have involved a variety of fundraisers and educational experiences. Most funds are being raised through car-parking at MSU home football games, and Breslin Center/Munn Arena post-event cleanups. Many members participated in bird banding at Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area this semester, and will also be involved in native prairie seed collections at Fort Custer State Park with MI DNR within the month. Plans for our biannual Red Cedar River Cleanup have progressed nicely, as the MSU Institute of Water Research has partnered with the club to make the cleanup more widely marketed and better funded. Free T-shirts will be given to volunteers this year, along with breakfast and lunch provided.

Finally, the club will be using its monetary award as NCS Student Chapter of the Year to attend the Midwest Fish and

Wildlife Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, in early December. This event will undoubtedly be as rewarding as the annual TWS meeting in Alaska, and our members are excited to become involved. There is certainly plenty to do in the meantime, however!

University of Minnesota - Crookston

by Mary Jo Geldert,, UMC NCS Representative

The University of Minnesota, Crookston Student Chapter has gotten off to a running start this fall. In September, we took several trips to band ducks with local DNR biologists as well as at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Students loved the opportunity and have already generated great interest in future field trips. We also elected officers. Plans for this fall include a field trip with the Mammalogy course to the Assiniboine Zoo and Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, assisting a local elementary school in refurbishing their nature center, presentations on piping plover and least tern research on the Missouri River, eider research in Alaska, as well as additional reports from student summer experiences. See you at the Midwest!

Newly elected officers for NCS records or officers:

2006-2007 – Fall/Spring

Trenton Haffley, President

Micah Meyers, Vice President

Larisa Skujins, Secretary

Holly Sandberg, Treasurer

Alisha Maves, Executive Board

Jessica Holmes, Executive Board

Randy Haken and Katie Engelmann, CSA Representative

Mary Jo Geldert, North Central Section Representative

University of Missouri - Columbia

by Josh Wisdom, President

Stephanie Raney, Secretary

The University of Missouri student chapter has had a very exciting year so far. We have seen a great increase in the number of students interested in joining The Wildlife Society.

This fall will be very busy and packed full of exciting events. Earlier this semester we sent 5 members to the National TWS meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, who all came back with wonderful tales to tell. During the meetings we have heard some interesting speakers from many backgrounds, like Quail Unlimited, research with neotropical migrants and research with the spotted owl. On October 17, we will host the annual Dunmire Lecture. This year we will hear from Patty Parker and her work on diseases in the Galapagos Islands. On November 1, we will have our annual deer-aging meeting so we can help the Missouri Department of Conservation in a deer-aging study. Members will be posted at check stations and take teeth and antler measurements. Members will learn professional and scientific skills they are not exposed to in the classroom. Later this semester our

chapter will host a camping trip and BBQ, host our student résumé workshop with professionals in various fields, the Mammals Program, and clean a local shooting range. To fund our projects, members work hard at a concession stand during football games. Due to the success of our football team this year, we have seen great sales.

Our chapter is very enthusiastic about the events coming up and we hope to keep energy and interest high into the next semester

Missouri Western State College

by Jamie Jantz, President

Victoria Ward, Secretary

The Missouri Western Student Chapter started this academic year off with a BBQ and night hike at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Corey Kudrna, Refuge Operations Specialist, led our group on the hike through the loess hills where we stopped periodically to call for owls and learn about the habitat. We also participate in some of the habitat restoration in this area. We went on a canoe trip led by Mike Perry, MDC Education and Information Specialist, and Dave Carlisle, MDC Conservation Agent, down the Platte River where we learned about river ecology, habitat, and fossils. We had an informational booth at our university's Family Day. We are co-sponsoring wildlife seminars held on our campus. Some of the annual activities we have coming up include bobwhite quail whistle count surveys and white-tailed deer aging studies with Missouri Department of Conservation, point-distance sampling for white-tailed deer and Eagle Days at Squaw Creek, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the Missouri Natural Resource Conference. We are still going strong with the hunter education instructor program. We will have another class for instructors towards the end of October to get our new members involved.

We have several new activities proposed for this year. We are planning a caving trip with Dr. Ashley, Biology Professor at MWSU, fire training with Clay County Parks and MDC, controlled burns at Smithville Lake, and volunteer work at M'Shoogy's Emergency Animal Rescue. We are in the process of planning more workshops and activities for the remainder of the fall semester and the up-coming spring semester. We have a great group of new recruits and we are off to a great start to this academic year.

Purdue University

The Purdue chapter of TWS had a busy and productive start to 2006. The four officers and several of the members were able to attend the State chapter meeting in South Bend. We enjoyed the opportunity to learn about recent events affecting wildlife in Indiana and visit with students and professionals in our field. We combined with the Ball State TWS chapter for a hiking, camping, and herping excursion to Brown County. On this trip we went out listening for frog calls in the evening and examined ephemeral pools for salamander egg masses during the day. The club also took a tour of Wolf Park in Prophetstown, Indiana to learn about the care of captive wolves and foxes and discuss what has been learned about wolf biology at the park. In April we held our

annual Wild Game Roast where donations of venison, squirrel, goose, rabbit, trout, and moose were prepared by the club members. This event was open to all, and we were very pleased with the turn out. The club also participated in Springfest

here at Purdue and activities at our booth included making pine cone and peanut butter bird feeders, ink stamping and identifying of animal tracks and the sale of bluebird houses constructed by the members.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

by Ryan Munes, President

There have been several new and exciting things happening with our student chapter in this past year. In the spring semester, several students got involved in the community. Students went to two local elementary schools for their "Science Nights" and talked about our local wildlife. Members also volunteered at Cherokee Marsh, building exclosures for native plants. The exclosures were put in the Yahara River in hopes of keeping out wildlife such as turtles, ducks, and muskrats.

Other events including visiting Horicon Marsh where students hiked through vernal ponds looking for herpitiles. Other students stayed on dry land turning over logs. In the beginning of April, students woke up early and headed to Buena Vista Marsh to catch the amazing dance of the greater-prairie chickens. Locally, students hiked through the Madison Arboretum to catch the "sky dance" of the American woodcock.

After taking third in the quizbowl at the national conference in the fall of 2005, the club was committed to sending a team to Alaska. Several meetings were held to freshen up on wildlife trivia and after a tough election for quizbowl participants; it was narrowed down to six. This fall the team took second (congratulations to Texas A&M) and a new team is already working hard to compete this spring at the conclave in Stevens Point.

This fall there is lots of excitement with several events planned. Students will be headed to Trout Lake Research Station for an adventurous weekend. Events include canoeing, birding, hunting, and fishing. We also plan on traveling to the Linwood Spring Research Station to help band saw-whet owls. Lastly, we will be having our game dinner in December, where students and faculty can get together to talk and enjoy unique game dishes. The club plans on having a great year as membership has increased, participation is growing, and there is talk of working more with the neighboring student chapters.

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

by Matt Schuler

Last spring was a busy semester for our chapter. We had several speakers that gave excellent presentations. Dr. Chris Vaughan spoke about the conservation of scarlet macaws and helping coffee producers in Costa Rica. Chip Lovell spoke about his job as a biologist for the USDA and APHIS. Raptor Education Group, Inc. came to a meeting and gave a large presentation on birds of prey. Adrian Wydeven spoke about wolves in Wisconsin. We held a trappers' education workshop, fur-bearer workshop, and helped sponsor the Houston Nature Center Festival of Owls. It was also another big year for the prairie chicken project. We sold Peterson Field Guides and our chapter's TWS apparel as fund-raisers. At the end of the semester we had our annual picnic, inducting new officers and introducing new project leaders.

This semester kicked off to a great start. Dick Thiel spoke at our first meeting about getting involved and the opportunities available to students at Sandhill Wildlife Area. We also have a few more speakers lined up to speak this semester. In October, Dr. Clarence Lehman from the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at University of Minnesota –Twin Cities, will be speaking about restoring prairies for biofuel. In November, Dan Peterson from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge will be speaking about the reintroduction of whooping cranes.

Several of our societal research projects have already started up for the semester including small mammal trapping, flying squirrel, otter, woodpecker, and fisher. There was also a very successful turn-out for duck banding at the Mead Wildlife Refuge early this September. There were three mornings of duck banding and all three had well over 50 volunteers from the society. We will also be sending more student volunteers this year to the Buckhorn Youth Hunt and the Sandhill learn to hunt deer workshop.

Our chapter was also able to attend the National Wildlife Society Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. We sent 16 undergraduate members to the conference. One of our members, Matt Schuler, also presented at the conference on his research on Blanding's turtles. In December, we will be sending a handful of students to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. We are planning on sending students to the national conference next year in Tucson, Arizona as well.

Our chapter is also looking at keeping ties with other student chapters. We will be participating in events with UW-Madison, MTU, and hopefully other chapters as well. We are currently putting together the North Central Section Student Conclave for next semester. It will take place on April 13 through the 15. We hope to have student chapters from all over the Midwest participate. We have a lot speakers lined up and activities for students to get involved in.

We want to keep in contact with other student chapters so that we can each be successful and grow in our field.

Non Reporting Student Chapters

Lake Superior State University
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Iowa State University
Central Michigan University
Ohio State University
St. Cloud State University
Central Missouri State University
Norther Michigan University
Michigan Tech University
Central Michigan University

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION CONCLAVE 2007

Hosted by

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEVENS POINT

Date: April 13-15, 2007

Location: Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI

Attractions: Multiple speakers covering a wide range of topics and research, LIVE RAPTORS, College-Budget Friendly Silent Auction, participate in our Prairie Chicken Research Project, Great food, fun, and prizes!

Contact Info: Please contact Kristina Artner at Kartn508@uwsp.edu with any further questions or requests.



Avian Influenza in Wild Birds

By Roy Domazlicky

One-hundred and forty-four subtypes of type A avian influenza (AI) exist and are characterized on the basis of two glycoproteins: hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). Low pathogenic (LP) AI viruses regularly circulate in wild birds and rarely cause symptoms of sickness or death. If LP forms are passed to poultry and are permitted to circulate in the new host, then they may mutate into a highly pathogenic (HP) form. These HP forms can cause extensive mortality in poultry. An HP strain which has recently emerged, Asian H5N1, is of concern because it has the ability to pass across species barriers from poultry to wild birds and humans. This strain has caused mortality in wild birds in Asia and Europe as well as resulting in the deaths of approximately 108 humans. No human is known to have contracted the disease from wild birds and all human cases are believed to be a result of close contact with infected poultry, poultry products, or surfaces. Public health officials are concerned that Asian H5N1 could mutate into a form which could be passed easily between humans and cause the next human influenza pandemic. However, a human pandemic resulting from Asian H5N1 is not a foregone conclusion.

Although Asian H5N1 avian influenza has not been found on the North American continent, agriculture, wildlife, and public health officials are anxious about the possibility that wild birds could bring the disease from Asia to North America during migration. At present little is known about the virulence of, persistence of, and degree to which Asian H5N1 can spread in wild birds. The dispersal of Asian H5N1 throughout Europe and Asia has been suspected in nearly all cases to have primarily resulted from the movements of infected poultry, poultry products, and the captive bird trade. However given current limited knowledge of Asian H5N1 in wild birds, the possibility that wild birds could bring the disease to North America from other continents can not be completely dismissed. Because of this uncertainty, Federal and State agencies are embarking on a cooperative surveillance effort for Asian H5N1 in wild birds. The national surveillance plan outlines five surveillance strategies for wild birds: 1) investigation of mortality events, 2) live bird surveillance, 3) hunter-harvested bird surveillance, 4) use of sentinel species, and 5) environmental sampling. State wildlife agencies are mainly being asked to assist with the first three strategies while agriculture departments and USDA-Wildlife Services will conduct the remaining strategies. Illinois DNR is currently exploring entering into a cooperative agreement with USDA-WS to collect samples for Asian H5N1 testing and anticipates having finalized plans soon.

Because wild birds can transmit diseases to humans, biologists should consider taking the following safety precautions provided by the National Wildlife Health Center when handling apparently healthy wild birds:

- 1) When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that can be disinfected or disposed of and protective eyewear or a face shield while handling animals.
- 2) Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water, and disinfect work surfaces and equipment between sites.
- 3) Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.

More detailed guidelines for hunters and biologists working in other situations are available at:

2006 CANDIDATES

Jeff Lawrence Candidate for President Elect



and many state and student Chapters thrive. The North Central Section fills an important role between the broader communications and policy agenda of the national TWS and the more local focus of our state chapters. The ability to address current issues and activities relevant to our portion of the country is essential to our continued advancement as both a profession and an organization. Exciting things are happening with the North Central Section. This year, we had an excellent response to Student Chapter of the Year submissions. Many of the Student Chapters are doing great work. We are also looking forward to hosting another fine symposium at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2007. The Section also provides timely input on resource issues and recognizes contributions of our members. However, we do have challenges to better define the role of the Section and how we can best serve our members and address resource issues. As President-elect, I would enjoy the opportunity to help further define and achieve the objectives of the Section.

Personal Data: Live in Bemidji, Minnesota with wife and 3 daughters.

Education: B.S. in Wildlife Management, Montana State University, 1979; M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1982; Ph.D. in Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 1987.

Employment History: Current position-Group Leader, Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bemidji; 2003-present; Waterfowl Specialist, Minn. DNR, 1988-2003; Migratory Bird Coordinator, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1986-1988.

Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1979. Previous member of Texas, Illinois, or Kentucky state chapter and member of Minnesota Chapter since 1988. Member of North Central Section for several years. Certified Wildlife Biologist (1991), Member, Jim McDonough Award Committee, (2000), North Central Section Secretary (2006).

Honors and Affiliations: Represented Minnesota or Kentucky on the Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Section, 1986-2003; DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Special Recognition Award – March 2004; Minnesota Ducks Unlimited Conservation Professional of the Year – 2004; Minnesota Waterfowl Association Conservationist of the Year – Professional Award, 1998.

Views: This is an exciting time for The Wildlife Society. The national organization is working to improve its effectiveness



Clay Nielsen Candidate for Secretary



Personal Data: Live in rural Carbondale, Illinois; wife: Dr. Charlotte Roy Nielsen.

Education: B. S. in Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1994; M.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 1996; Ph.D. in Zoology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), 2001.

Employment History: 2003-present: Wildlife Ecologist/ Assistant Scientist, Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory (CWRL), SIUC. 2001, 2003: Post-doctoral Fellow, CWRL, SIUC. 2001-2003: Wildlife Ecologist, Holterra Wildlife Management.

Wildlife Society Activities: Member of parent chapter of TWS since 1994 and Certified Wildlife Biologist. President, Illinois Chapter of TWS (2005-07). Faculty advisor, SIUC Student Chapter (2005-present). Current member of **Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group.**

Honors and Affiliations: 2005-present: Adjunct Faculty, Department of Biology, Central Michigan University. 2004-present: Adjunct Assistant Professor and Graduate Faculty member, Department of Zoology, SIUC. 2004-present: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, SIUC. 2003-present: Director of Scientific Research and Board of Directors, Cougar Network. Current or former member of Alpha Zeta, American Society of Mammalogists, Gamma Sigma Delta, Illinois Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, and Society of Conservation Biology.

Views: In agreement with other section members I have spoken to, I am interested in further refining the function of the North Central Section in The Wildlife Society. We have several levels of potential activity in TWS: the state chapter, the section, and of course, the national level. Where does the NCS fit in this continuum, and what can we do to enhance the utility of this group? As an officer

with the NCS, I would work with other Executive Board members to help identify our position; such work may require surveys to fully assess the attitudes of all NCS members.

Mark Shieldcastle Candidate for Treasurer



Education: B.S. in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University in 1974

Employment History: Twenty-nine years with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Presently the Project Leader of Wetland Wildlife Research. Past job titles include: Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Research Technician. Was a research technician with the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University (1974-76).

TWS Activities: Member since 1974. President of the Ohio State University Student Chapter 1973.

Honors & Affiliations: Member The American Ornithologists' Union; The Wilson Ornithological Society; The Cooper Ornithological Society; The Association of Field Ornithologists; Raptor Research Foundation; The Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Section (State representative & Chair – Banding Committee); Inland Bird Banding Association (President 2001-04); North American Banding Council (Chair 2004-05).

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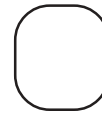
NORTH CENTRAL SECTION TWS OFFICIAL BALLOT 2006

**BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
NOVEMBER 28, 2006**

Please email selections to Luukkond@michigan.gov
or copy and mark your selection

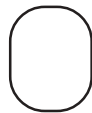
Candidate for President-Elect

**Jeffrey Lawrence (MN)
NO OPPOSITION**



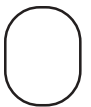
Candidate for Secretary


**Clay Nielsen (IL)
NO OPPOSITION**



Candidate for Treasurer

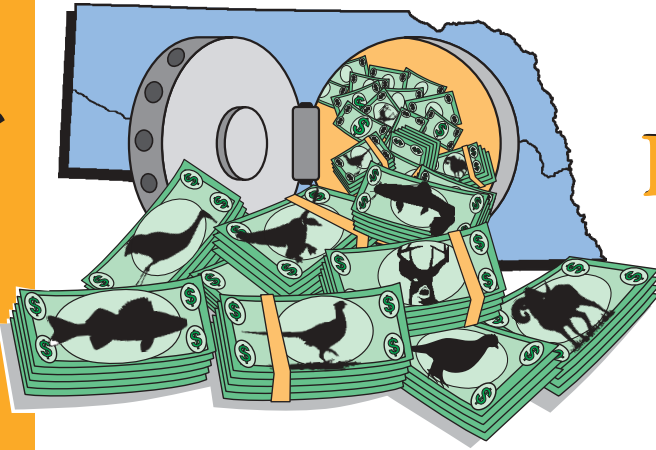
**Mark Shieldcastle (OH)
NO OPPOSITION**





**David Luukkonen - President
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