



NORTH CENTRAL SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY
SPRING NEWSLETTER
MAY, 2010

(Submitted by Don Sparling, President Elect
dsparl@siu.edu)

I. Minutes of the 2009 North Central Section Business Meeting

2009 North Central Section TWS Business Meeting Hilton Hotel, Vista III Springfield, IL – 7 December 2009



Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

President Clay Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Executive Board Reports

A. President's Report – Clay Nielsen

Clay stated he was in possession of the secretary's historic files and that he would continue to be the repository for these records. He also mentioned that he was willing to coordinate the plaques for the various NCS awards. The Section granted two awards in 2009; the Professional Award of Merit and the Best Student Chapter Award. Clay noted that he made an executive decision to fund the Fenske Award (\$500.00) in 2009; however, very few other requests were received. A small discussion ensued about the Section's involvement with the Fenske Award. See below #4 New Business, Item D. Clay discussed that it was difficult to find people to run for office, and John Schulz suggested that the Board scan the audience at the Conference for potential officers. Clay briefly commented on the Felid Ecology and Management in the Midwest Symposium at the 2009 Conference but noted that no funds were needed from the Section for guest speakers. Clay mentioned the need to enhance the Continuing Education Fund but noted it wasn't the best time now (economically) to solicit funds. He also noted that Gary Potts was named Fellow by the North Central Section, Wisconsin Chapter was named Best State Chapter, and John Olsen was awarded the McDonnell Award.

B. President Elect's Report – Bob Gates, not present for report, but arrived at meeting soon after.

C. Past President's Report – Jeff Lawrence, not present.

D. Secretary's Report – Clay Nielsen distributed the 2008 Minutes in Aaron Yetter's absence (Aaron was present at the time of State Reports and beyond)

E. Treasurer's Report – Michelle Windsor

Michelle noted that the Treasurer was a two year term which allowed for better continuity. The Symposia Fund was ~\$11,000, Continuing Education Fund was ~\$28,000, both of which were placed in CDs. The last symposium funded was the Lead Symposium two years ago at a cost of ~\$3,200. Funding covered travel costs of the invited speakers. The Section's general operating funds were ~\$7,500 which might be reduced by \$500 for the 2009 Fenske Award. The last payment (\$1,000) to the TWS Endowment Fund was made on November 6, 2008. A small discussion ensued regarding the Continuing Education Fund. It was stated that the purpose of this fund was to fund workshops for professionals. Clay suggested that these funds be discussed in the newsletter in order to generate ideas for professional workshops.

F. State Chapter Reports

Wisconsin Chapter – Michelle Windsor briefly noted Wisconsin’s activities and that their annual meeting will be in March with a theme of Bio-Fuels and Their Impact on Wildlife.

Illinois Chapter – Wade Louis reported on the 2009 annual meeting held jointly with the Illinois Society of American Foresters (SAF). Wade noted the two groups agreed to write a document intended to foster support for timber harvest on state property, which will be chaired by John Buhnerkempe of IL DNR. Wade added that Gary Potts was named Fellow by the NCS TWS, and Tom Beissel was named 2009 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for his work on chronic wasting disease in deer. The Chapter’s 2010 annual business meeting will be held on December 8, 2009 at the Midwest Conference due to travel constraints.

Michigan Chapter – Paul Keenlance reported their chapter is back up and running. They had their first meeting in four years in the spring of 2009. Planning is underway for the spring 2010 annual meeting.

Minnesota Chapter – John Loegering stated Minnesota had about 225 members and held a summer meeting on wetland restoration with the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society. Planning was underway for the March 2010 meeting to be held jointly with TWS, American Fisheries Society (AFS), Society of Conservation Biology, and SAF. Minnesota will host the Midwest in 2010.

Missouri Chapter – John Schulz commented that Missouri held a professional workshop on wind farms. They planned to hold their annual meeting in late January or early February in conjunction with AFS, TWS, SAF, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. There will be a special workshop on lead poisoning at this meeting.

Ohio – Suzie Prange commented on their annual meeting held jointly with the Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Agency in February and a fall meeting in October. The Ohio Chapter currently has 111 members. They conducted an online survey to get ideas from the membership regarding workshops, field trips, etc.

G. Section Representative’s Report – Alan Crossley

Alan encouraged the membership’s involvement at all levels of TWS and to nominate groups for awards. Alan clarified that his term expired in September 2010 and thanked the group for support.

2. Committee Activities

A. Nominations and Elections – Clay Nielsen

Clay emphasized the need for a committee to be able to fill a ballot of candidates. This year only one candidate for each position was secured. The candidates were supported by membership vote.

Don Sparling – President Elect

Charlie Nilon – Secretary

Suzie Prang – Treasurer

Clay noted that the Board considered paying for travel to the National TWS Conference and Midwest in a way to get members to run for office. Gary Potts suggested that the Section ask for documentation that the officer sought funding from his/her employer prior to granting travel funds. Alan Crossley suggested funding for the Section Representative and President to attend the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, and maybe supporting some officers with travel to the Midwest Conference to attend the NCS meetings.

Paul Brewer motioned to make NCS funds available to officers for travel to meetings; Steve Havera seconded; motion carried.

Given its financial ability, the Executive Board will fund travel for officers at their discretion. Bob Gates will pursue setting up a travel fund for officers.

B. Awards

Stephen P. Havera was bestowed the 2009 Professional Award of Merit and 2009 Student Chapter of the Year was granted to Missouri Western State University. Officers from Missouri Western gave a slide presentation of their activities.

3. Old Business

A. Daryl Walter – Director of Membership, Marketing, and Conferences

Daryl spoke about his TWS activities since he began in August 2008. He stated there was an effort by TWS to have National officers attend Section meetings to get them involved and in touch with the membership. Membership was currently at 8800 nationally, which was a 14% increase over 2008. Attendance was up 13.5% at the 2009 National Conference in Monterey, California. A post-conference survey indicated 86.5% of the respondents believed the educational content of the conference was good or excellent, while 82.8% said the technical merit was good or better. The 2010 National conference will be moved to October to better coincide with the Federal fiscal year.

Daryl noted Council voted to make TWS membership renew on the anniversary of membership and not the calendar year. Resources available to the membership on the webpage included the membership roster, TWS technical reviews, COWCH – Conserving our Wildlife conservation Heritage videos, and job postings.

B. Fund Balances

Continuing Education Fund. Michelle Windsor noted the balance was \$27,488.

Symposium Fund . The balance was \$10,468 and was last used at the Lead Symposium in the amount of \$3,200 to cover travel for invited speakers.

General Fund. \$7,343.

The Section needs to let the membership know that these funds are available for use via the Section newsletter. Gary Potts noted the Section hosts a symposium every other year, and he urged the President Elect to print a list of past symposia in the newsletter.

Alan Crossley mentioned the Continuing Education Fund was established to create educational opportunities for wildlife professionals. Originally, this account was intended to hold at least \$50,000 and the interest used to pay for workshops.

C. Operations Manual

Jeff Lawrence has been updating the manual and Clay Nielsen will take over in 2010.

D. Membership Trends

Clay informed the group that NCS membership has leveled off at 420; but down nearly 50% since 1997.

E. Section Dues

2010 Section dues will remain at \$10 as voted on by the Executive Board.

Incoming President Bob Gates conducted the New Business portion of the meeting.

4. New Business

A. New Student Chapter

Bob informed the group that the Executive Board voted to accept the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) as a new student chapter.

B. Fenske Award

Funds (\$500) were solicited from the Section for this award which Clay Nielsen granted. Gary Potts discussed the history of the award. Gary noted that this was a Michigan AFS award. Clay stated that the Executive Board was generally opposed to supporting this award in the future.

C. 2012 Midwest

Bob reported the 2012 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference will be in Kansas.

D. NCS Website

John Loegering briefly reported that the site was moved and will likely move again to TWS National webpage.

E. 2010 NCS Student Conclave

The 2010 NCS Student Conclave will be hosted by Purdue University, 26-28 March.

F. Elections

There will be an election for Section Representative to replace retiring Representative Alan Crossley. Ballots will be sent out by TWS soon. Candidates are John Schulz from Missouri DOC and Karl Martin with Wisconsin DNR.

John Loegering moved to adjourn; Michelle Windsor seconded; motion carried. 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron P. Yetter
Secretary
January 26, 2010



71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
December 12-15 2010, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, MN
Check out <http://www.midwest2010.org> for details
Abstracts for poster and platform presentations due 1 August 2010.

Part B. News Items

The North Central Section of The Wildlife Society - Professional Award of Merit – From Illinois Chapter of TWS

Dr. Stephen Havera was the recipient of the 2009 Professional Award of Merit from the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society on December 7th at the annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Springfield, Illinois. The Wildlife Society's Professional Award of Merit is the Section's highest award and is given periodically to outstanding wildlife professionals from the eight Midwest states of the North Central Section for their lifetime contribution to scientific knowledge and leadership.

Havera has been providing professional service to our natural resources since he joined the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) in 1972. He remains active in the biological arena and maintains an Emeritus appointment with INHS.



12th Annual Arctic Goose Conference, January 11-15, 2011, Portland OR. See www.nacgconference.com for details

New Graduate Student Award – submitted by Eric Hellgren. The Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory announced the initial recipients of a new annual award program for graduate students. Kenneth Delahunt (co-advisors: Clay Nielsen and Jack Nawrot) was the recipient of the Alan Woolf Outstanding M.S. Student Award, and Cy Mott (advisor: Don Sparling) was the recipient of the Director's Outstanding Ph.D. student Award. These awards include cash and a wood plaque commemorating their achievement.

New Book on Urban Carnivores. Stanley D. Gehrt, Seth P.D. Riley, and Brian L. Cypher (eds.) 2010. **Urban Carnivores: Ecology, Conflict, and Conservation.** 285 pages. Johns Hopkins Press. *With over half of the world's human population now living in cities, human-carnivore interaction in urban areas is a growing area of concern and research for wildlife managers, conservationists, urban planners, and the public at large. This volume brings together leading international carnivore researchers to explore the unique biological and ecological issues associated with mammalian carnivores in urban landscapes.* Stan is member of the Wildlife Society and the North Central Section.

New Book on Amphibians and Reptiles. Donald W. Sparling, Greg Linder, Christine Bishop and Sherry Krest (eds.).

Ecotoxicology of Amphibians and Reptiles, 2nd Edition. 944 pages. SETAC Press with Taylor and Francis. *Building on the success of its popular predecessor, the second edition of Ecotoxicology of Amphibians and Reptiles presents newly available findings on the species that are important environmental indicators. This new edition covers nearly twice as many topics as the first, including recent developments in the ecotoxicology of amphibians and reptiles, the current status of these animals, and intrinsic factors that affect their susceptibility to contaminants. The book also provides the latest information on specific groups of contaminants and their effects and body burdens in herpetofauna. After a review of how contaminants interact with other ecological factors, the text explores concerns for the future.* Don is a member of the Wildlife Society and currently President elect of the North Central Section.



Part C. Articles and Longer Items

Monitoring for Bird Conservation in the Midwest – submitted by Katie Koch, USFWS, Midwest Bird Monitoring Coordinator , Michigan Chapter

Monitoring for bird conservation varies from status and trend measurement to setting population and conservation goals for species, determining the causes of population changes and ultimately informing management to make conservation decisions. Since its inception in October 2008, the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership has made great strides in better focusing avian population monitoring activities among federal, state, non-governmental, tribal, and private partners alike. Coordinated bird monitoring is not just about the monitoring itself, but rather placing that information in a conservation context such that the data collected can INFORM management decisions.

The Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership focuses its activities on four main objectives:

- Improve communication and awareness among bird conservation researchers, managers, and policymakers
- Align monitoring programs with conservation, management and policy priorities within a strategic context
- Promote and develop standardized protocols and statistically-based sampling frameworks
- Implement modern data management and analysis strategies

Several key projects highlight the success already attained in meeting our objectives:

- 1) Visit our interactive website (<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/>) and sign-up today to stay current with working group progress, discussion forums, important Midwest bird conservation announcements and funding opportunities, recommended protocols and data management practices, to post your own information, or to participate in Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership activities taking place throughout the region. You can also network with the more than 130 members already engaged from throughout the region (and continent).
- 2) Several focused working groups have been catalyzed to align existing or develop new monitoring programs with bird conservation, management and policy priorities. For example, the Midwest Grassland Bird Conservation Working Group is working to assimilate existing grassland bird monitoring data sets for meta-analyses to guide design of “grassy landscapes” that would support viable grassland bird populations throughout the region. They are also trying to identify important information gaps to address with focused monitoring or research projects that can greatly advance our collective efforts to reverse declining trends in these species. Additionally, the Great Lakes Coastal Bird Monitoring Advisory Group is directing its energy to identifying highest priority information needs for guiding wind power development, land acquisition, and management activities and developing a coordinated approach to attaining and packaging that information so it is most useful to decision-makers throughout the region.



- 3) We are very proud to announce that two Midwest states (Wisconsin and Michigan) are providing leadership in the pilot of a nation-wide monitoring program. Secretive marshbirds such as rails, bitterns, coots, and grebes are among the most poorly monitored bird groups in North America. The National Secretive Marshbird Monitoring Program is predicated upon several key components: a well-tested protocol, statistically-based sampling framework, and coordination among many partners at multiple spatial scales. As we transition from the pilot stage (2008-2011) into full implementation of this program nationwide (beginning in 2012), our success hinges upon agreement from flyway, regional, state, federal and non-governmental partners that coordinated monitoring of secretive marshbirds to gain status and trend information, determine sustainable harvest limits for hunted species, and

evaluate effectiveness of wetland conservation and restoration is a shared priority for our collective efforts.

The Midwest Nocturnal Bird Monitoring Program is also gaining momentum in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota in its efforts to coordinate owl and nightjar monitoring programs to fill information gaps of under-surveyed species and also highlight opportunities for conservation and management actions that support these species. We are working closely with similar efforts in the Northeast and Southeast US and Canada.

- 4) We are increasingly being asked to put extensive avian databases already in existence to work as soon as possible. This requires technology which can keep abreast of wide-ranging impacts, offering scientists and land managers real-time data to enable them to craft timely and effective adaptive management plans for conserving wild birds and their habitats. Therefore, we are partnering with Point Reyes Bird Observatory (and the California Avian Data Center; CADC – www.prbo.org/data) in the development of the Midwest Avian Data Center, a new regional node of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN; www.avianknowledge.net). The Midwest Avian Data Center will greatly broaden the amount and types of bird monitoring data from the Upper Midwest region that can be archived, accessed and analyzed across the Internet. Customized data visualization and query tools will enable regional bird conservation partners to access information for management units relevant to conservation. As a part of the AKN, our data will be integrated with a global network of bird monitoring data and tools developed to query and analyze these data. The Midwest Avian Data Center should be operational and accessible beginning in 2011.

We are organizing two workshops (both taking place in August 2010) to continue the work begun at the 2009 workshops, reach additional bird conservation partners, ensure we are still addressing the highest priority bird monitoring and conservation needs with a regional approach, expand working groups and pilot monitoring programs to additional Midwest states, and identify customized features to be built into the Midwest Avian Data Center. Workshop information and registration forms will be available soon on our website (<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.ning.com/>). We are also organizing a full-day symposium during the 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, The Power of Partnerships for Midwest Bird Conservation. For more information about the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership, please contact Katie Koch today (katie_koch@fws.gov, 906/226-1249).

New DNR Report Addresses Fire Effects on Prairie Insects – submitted by Dreux Watermolen

Many people are concerned that the use of fire for managing small, isolated prairie remnants may be adversely affecting prairie-specialist insects. Concern that small remnants may be inadequate for conserving prairie insect diversity also exists. Wisconsin DNR research scientist Rich Henderson investigated these concerns by analyzing leaf hopper communities (This group has a high percentage of prairie-restricted or prairie-dependent species, and hopper species typically overwinter above ground in the litter and duff, and are thus considered by entomologists to be highly vulnerable to fire).

The dataset analyzed by Henderson, drawn from eight Wisconsin remnant prairies, revealed no striking, widespread effects of fire history, remnant size, or isolation on leaf hopper density, richness, or diversity. Remnants less than 1.5 ha in size, however, had markedly fewer specialists than those larger than 1.5 ha. Of nine prairie-specialists investigated, one species appeared sensitive to remnant size and another to time-since-last-fire. One species tended to be more prevalent on larger sites, and one hopper was more prevalent on areas that had gone the longest without fire. Average fire-return-interval seemed to have no effect on any of the specialist species studied. Sampling effort and year had far greater and more consistent influence than fire history, remnant size, or isolation.

The small sample size of the study and the lack of very large and long un-burned remnants in the sample preclude definitive conclusions being drawn from the results. Further research into the subject is

very much needed. However, the results of this study do point to a strong likelihood that fire and remnant size may have rather limited and specific effects when it comes to prairie leafhoppers in general.

You can view or download the complete Research Report, "Influence of Patch Size, Isolation, and Fire History on Hopper (Homoptera: Auchenorrhyncha) Communities of Eight Wisconsin Prairie Remnants," online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/rr.htm>.



Part . State Chapter Highlights

The Wisconsin Chapter of TWS continues to increase in membership and activity, and efforts to revitalize our chapter by recent chapter Officers and Executive Board members were recognized with the awarding of the "State Chapter of the Year" honor at the TWS national conference in Monterey in September 2009. Past-presidents Jamie Nack and Karl Martin deserve special mention for their leadership during an exciting time in our chapter's history, as does past NC Section Representative and WCTWS member Alan Crossley, for his efforts during the award application process. WCTWS is currently a very active chapter, with increasing membership stemming largely from a renewed emphasis on making membership beneficial in terms of access to scientific information, professional development opportunities, and increased collaboration with colleagues.

Over 190 WCTWS members attended the March WCTWS 2010 winter meeting at Stoney Creek Inn in Rothschild. The welcome social, informative scientific program, banquet and awards ceremony, and informal discussions with colleagues all contributed to making the meeting a success. After welcoming remarks by President Harvey Halvorsen, the Plenary Session, with the theme "Impacts of Biofuel Development on Wildlife," kicked off with an excellent overview of federal biofuel policy development by Julie Sibbing of the National Wildlife Federation. During the meeting, new chapter officers were elected, including David Drake (President-elect), Sarah Kehrli (Secretary/Treasurer), and Becky Roth (Board Member). The winners of the 2010 WCTWS awards were: Wisconsin Award - Jim March, Don Rusch; Memorial Award - Charlie Kilian; and WCTWS Student Award -Kelli VanBeek. Kelli VanBeek and Amanda Cyr received the 2010 Aldo Leopold Memorial Scholarships.

The Wisconsin Chapter also hosted a very successful Technical Training Session at the Treehaven Field Station near Tomahawk on 14-15 September 2009. Over 40 biologists participated in a 2-day workshop on Wildlife Inventory and Monitoring Techniques. Twenty-one new members were recruited during this event. The Wisconsin chapter is additionally planning annual "Quantitative Training" sessions. These 1-day sessions, the first of which will be offered during January of 2011, will focus on boiling down complex quantitative methods commonly used in wildlife science, to increase their utility and interpretability by biologists across the state. The inaugural session will likely include an overview of survival analysis.

Minnesota Chapter of TWS. Submitted by Greg Gahoch - It is early summer in Minnesota. The prairie chickens are done booming and the ruffed grouse are done drumming. The prairies are full of bobolinks and the forests full of warblers. There are goslings everywhere.

It has been a momentous 18 months in Minnesota. In Nov 2008 Minnesota voters passed a Constitutional amendment for a 3/8th of a percent sales tax to increase habitat for wildlife. This will generate tens of millions of dollars each for habitat acquisition and management. The state set up a governing council. They then put out a request for proposals for habitat projects. In the past month, the

legislature approved the budgets for these projects and we will start work across the state later this summer.

This past March the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society held their meeting in conjunction with the state chapter of Society of American Foresters, Society for Conservation Biology, and American Fisheries Society. It was a great chance to meet colleagues from across the state and talk to people in related but different areas. A good time was had by all.

Illinois Chapter of TWS. Submitted by Mike Wefer – The Illinois Chapter of TWS had its annual meeting on 8 September 2009 during the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Dan Ludwig was elected President-elect and Aaron Yetter was elected Councilperson-at-Large. Dr. Edward J. Heske was awarded the Illinois Chapter of the Wildlife Society's Professional Award of Merit. The Professional Award of merit is given only when truly outstanding nominations are received and is based on contributions to the knowledge of wildlife management, single outstanding acts, or leadership over a period of several years in an area of wildlife work. Dr. Heske has served as a professional scientist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey since 1991. He has been influential in the long-term, adaptive management of Illinois wildlife, particularly mammals. In addition to his work with the state, Dr. Heske has taught Mammalogy and Vertebrate Natural History at the University of Illinois and received recognition for excellent teaching numerous times. He has mentored 6 Ph.D., 12 masters and many undergraduate students and has served as faculty co-advisor for the University of Illinois Student Chapter. Gary Potts of the IDNR was acknowledged for becoming a TWS Fellow during the 2009 annual TWS meeting.



Part . News From the Student Chapters (in no particular order)

UW-Madison Student Wildlife Society, submitted by Curt Rollman. In the fall we sent four of our members to the National Wildlife Society's Conference. The members got to listen to many great speakers, do some networking and compete in the ever challenging quiz bowl. Each member said it was a great and rewarding experience for them. We also held many society events through the fall semester, some of our highlights include : a trip to the Northern Saw-whet Owl research station, hiking/camping in Northern Wisconsin, and prairie restorations. We also held our annual fundraising game dinner which was a great success, thanks to all of those that turned out and helped make it happen.

Our spring was just as eventful as our fall semester. We held an event almost every weekend during the semester ranging from "herping" trips to highway cleanups to many nights of outreach in local schools. The outreach nights are one of our most successful events. Helping promote an appreciation of local wildlife is a very rewarding experience for our members and is very well met by local students.

All in all it was a great year for our society. A year that saw an increase in membership, especially in the freshman and sophomore classes which gives us an exciting future! The new officer team is full of motivated members so I expect next year to be just as successful as the last.

Have a great summer.

The University of Rio Grande Student Chapter, Rio Grande OH, submitted by Don Althoff - The University of Rio Grande Student Chapter, which was started in January, just finished its first semester of existence. Seventeen members, lead by President Dan Eckstein, had a solid start to expanding education, service, and recreational activities opportunities for Rio wildlife and fish students. They held a

Hocking River clean-up day by collecting trash along a 1-mile long stretch of the river near Nelsonville, participated in a garlic mustard pull at Wayne National Forest, and had local trapper speak about the challenges of capturing furbearers in a semi-rural landscape—including the keys to working on both public and private lands. Fund-raising projects included helping build a pole-barn and a bake sale/chili lunch on the Hocking College campus where Rio classes are held. Elections were held at the end of the semester. The 2010-2011 officers are Adam Benshoff-President, Chris Witmer-Vice President, Kendra McCloskey-Secretary, and Jessica Byrd-Treasurer.

University of Minnesota, Crookston, submitted by Jamie Mills – Spring was filled with opportunity for members of the student chapter – and we took full advantage of it. We had two guest speakers on travel and wildlife-related topics. We visited the International Wolf Center in Ely, Mn for presentations and learning about wolves. Fifteen members attended the annual Minnesota Chapter meeting, held this year with AFS, SAF, and SCB. In addition, we assisted in two big events that educated local youth: one was Earth Day celebration at Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and the other was a renovation project to the local school nature center as part of an Eagle Scout service project.

Minnesota State University, Moorhead, submitted by Ashley Horton and Donna Bruns - The newly-formed Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) has been busy! We started the 2009-2010 academic year by taking our members out to MSUM's Regional Science Center, by Glyndon Minnesota, to learn about bird banding. This activity is done through a research project at the center which educates students on mist netting, bird banding, proper handling of birds, and data collection. Also at the Regional Science Center, we have 28 bluebird boxes that are registered with the NestWatch program. We cleaned and repaired the boxes to prepare for the bluebirds' arrival next spring. Through the Nest Watch program, we monitor and report the status of bluebirds and bluebird eggs in our area. In early September, our student chapter worked with MSUM's Chemistry Club and raised \$233.00 for Alzheimer's research by doing an Alzheimer's Memory Walk. Two speakers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) came and discussed their jobs working with freshwater fish and ecosystems. Our members got a better understanding of how projects work through the DNR and the important work they do for people and the environment. We are in the process of making "Tree Cookies" (i.e. cross-sectional pieces of tree trunks or branches that show growth rings) that we will be donating to the MNDNR for educating students. We have registered with the Adopt-a-River Program and will be cleaning a portion of the Red River every year (assuming flooding isn't too bad) to help ensure its continued health. Our upcoming event for December will be to start our enrichment project for animals at the Red River Zoo in Fargo, ND. Lastly, we are planning a two-day trip to the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. This trip will educate our members on general wolf biology, communication, research and their recovery. Our student chapter has had an eventful semester this fall, and we expect our next to be just as busy.

Addendum: The Minnesota State University Moorhead Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society had 6 members attend the annual state chapter meeting of TWS in Nisswa on 1-3 March. Some of the members presented their research on painted turtles and wild turkeys in poster format. Spring plans include monitoring of bluebird houses formerly erected at the MSUM Regional Science Center and further animal enrichment activities at the Red River Valley Zoo.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Student Chapter – submitted by Brenna Towery. The spring semester had a slow start with the cold weather, but in February we held a fundraiser to help support the National Tiger Sanctuary in Missouri and managed to raise over \$200. We also made a trip out to the St. Louis Zoo. Our group experienced the Illinois Caverns and saw some really neat things. While at the caverns we spotted cave salamanders, tiger salamanders, leopard frogs, little brown bats, and eastern pipistrels. We even saw bats mating! A few members of the club attended the Midwest Student Conclave in March, hosted by Purdue. The Conclave was a weekend filled with fun and education. Once the weather really warmed up the group finally got a chance to do some herping in Giant

City State Park. While herping we found lots of snakes, salamanders, newts, turtles, and toads. We also participated in a Recycling Day trash pick-up in the Carbondale community. Upcoming events will include a trap shoot, our annual Beast Feast fundraiser, and the Cache River Nature Fest. The spring semester has turned out to be very eventful and filled with fun and educational experiences.



In Memory: Ruth Hine, submitted by Susi Nehls

Dear Friends of Ruth Hine: 5/4/10

We would like to share in one location a number of tributes that have been published about Ruth in recent months. Some of you may have encountered some of these before, but maybe not all. Here are they are, arranged in chronological order of appearance.

1. Highlights of an interview with Lesa Kardash (DNR wildlife biologist). Story (see attached) appeared in Fall 2009 in "Intelligent Tinkering," a newsletter published by the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society (38[4]:16).
2. A story, written by Bill Berry (writer, Stevens Point), appeared in The Cap Times on March 29, 2010, shortly after Ruth's death. It talked about Ruth's upcoming induction into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. See: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/bill_berry/article_25127f8a-8014-586c-b6e9-a378ed2ef902.html
3. On April 21, the DNR posted a series of slide shows, videos, and stories in honor of Earth Day. Ruth is featured in some vignettes about earth day heroes in our community. See: <http://dnr.wi.gov/aboutdnr/specialreports/earthday/>
4. Chuck Pils wrote and delivered a speech in honor of Ruth at the Hall of Fame ceremonies at Stevens Point on April 24, 2010.
5. Ruth's nephew, Paul White (President of the Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in NM), shared family recollections of "Aunt Ruthie," following Chuck's speech at the induction ceremonies.
6. Bill Berry wrote a monograph for Ruth for the Hall of Fame. It will be archived along with the monographs of past inductees. A paper copy (attached) of Bill's monograph was available at the induction ceremonies. More information about the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame appears on their website at www.wchf.org.

Ruth will be missed, but we will not forget her friendship, contributions, lessons, and kindness.

**Fourth “Beginning Your Professional Journey” workshop held at 70th
Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in 2009!**

Twenty-five students attended the fourth iteration of the “Beginning your Professional Journey” workshop, hosted by the 70th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Student Affairs Subcommittee. Thank you to Gary Potts (IL DNR) and Stacy Lischka (IL NHS) for their work to secure funding for the workshop and for their help with workshop logistics. We also thank Critter Control for their generous financial support: And thank you to the many professionals who volunteered their time and expertise during the workshop!

At the start of the day, in addition to a copy of the AFS “Guide to Fisheries Employment”, each student participant was presented with a binder full of resource materials for their use as they prepare for their first post-baccalaureate positions and a supply of “business cards” to be used while networking with professionals during the conference.

“Beginning your Professional Journey” consisted of four sessions. Mike Pagel, Natural Resources & Sciences Employment Specialist at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, kicked off the day with a presentation entitled, “10 Ways to Cut your Journey Short.” Students were given advice in an entertaining and memorable fashion on how *not* to land a position in graduate school or as an employee. Mike next presented a session that focused on professional correspondence, particularly resumes. After a mid-morning break, participants heard from academic and employer panels. The academic panel presented information pertaining to the requirements for getting into graduate schools, and tips for developing a dialogue with a faculty member with whom a student would like to work. The employer panel consisted of four individuals from federal and state agencies, a non-profit organization and an employer from the private sector. Panel members discussed the desired skill sets, variety of positions, and current and predicted opportunities within their organizations, along with a little information about their own professional journeys. A question and answer period followed the panel presentations. Following the lunch break, Mike Pagel led a session on interviewing. The day’s final session, Networking, was presented by Rebecca Christoffel, an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University. Students were invited to meet with Mike Pagel during the conference to receive individual consultation regarding their job or graduate school searches, and 10 indicated that they would do so.

Students and professionals greatly appreciated their participation in the workshop. Nineteen of twenty responding participants indicated that the workshop had been worth the time and money they spent in order to attend. The business correspondence and networking sessions seemed especially helpful to students based on their assessments. All of our participants indicated that they would recommend participation in the workshop to others! Selected student

comments in reply to the question, "Would you recommend this workshop to a friend? Why or why not?" included:

"The workshop covered such a broad range of topics and discussed such small details that are important. Even better, the workshop proved to be engaging the whole day without losing my attention."

"Oh yes, because there is very little info of this type available to science students."

"Yes because everyone needs to be reminded of key points from time to time so that they can be at their best as well."

Students were asked to use the backside of their evaluation forms to share any other comments that might be helpful in improving future workshops. These comments will be used by co-organizers in preparation for the 2010 "Beginning your Professional Journey" workshop.

Plans are underway for the next "Beginning your Professional Journey Workshop" to be held at the 2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. If you plan to attend the conference and would like to be involved in the workshop as a professional leader or potential session leader, please contact Rebecca Christoffel (515-294-7429 or christof@iastate.edu). We look forward to seeing you in St. Paul!

Report from the NCS Representative to TWS Council

By Alan Crossley

20 May 2010

The Wildlife Professional Won Two Awards: The TWS member magazine, *The Wildlife Professional* received two EXCEL awards from Association Media & Publishing—a silver for a feature article on cleaning oiled otter fur and a bronze for the special feature on wildlife education.

The Wildlife Society Bulletin is Coming Back: Based on a proposal prepared by the TWS Council's Publications Subcommittee Chair, Gary White, TWS Council decided to resurrect the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* as an online journal at our recent council meeting in Milwaukee. The new *Wildlife Society Bulletin* will be a journal for wildlife practitioners that focuses on the application of wildlife science to practical challenges in wildlife and habitat management and conservation and serve as a good complement to *The Wildlife Professional* and the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

There Will be Another International Wildlife Management Congress: Council also decided that The Wildlife Society will hold another International Wildlife Management Congress. A committee will be appointed to develop and implement the plan, working with international partners. The last Congress was held in 2003 in New Zealand.

TWS Conference is in Snowbird Utah – October 2-6, 2010

I hope to see some of you at the TWS conference in Snowbird. It should be a great meeting in a great location. Registration opens in June. Please check out the conference website for more information: <http://www.wildlifesociety.org/>

Making Tracks – TWS Blog

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and views on wildlife conservation management. Feel free to post comments. Find it at <http://wildlifeprofessional.org/blog/>

Check Out the Website! There is a lot more that is going on at TWS, so I encourage you to visit the website to learn more – www.wildlife.org

My 3-year Term is Almost Up

Depending upon the results of the elections later this spring, either Karl Martin (Wisconsin) or John Schulz (Missouri) will be ushered in as the new North Central Section representative to Council at the annual meeting in Utah. I've had a thoroughly enjoyable ride and appreciate the opportunity that you've given me to represent the section on Council. Thank you.

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