



Volume (2018), Issue 1

Spring 2018

Habitat Management for Bobwhite Quail Seeks to Increase Population

Management Corner

The cottonwoods were spitting seeds like snow on a June day. Wild roses were blooming in the roadside and snapping turtles were on the move, heading to nesting sites on the river’s edge. So it didn’t seem out of place when I heard the familiar “bob! bob-White!” call. But wait... I hadn’t heard that call in years in Mahaska County *and* I was on a bike trail at the edge of town – not exactly prime quail habitat. Following the source of the sound, I found it coming from a starling perched high in a mulberry tree. The invasive bird was mimicking the call of a bobwhite. But how many starling generations had it been since the birds mimicked real quail, here on the northern edge of their range? While bobwhite quail aren’t an endangered species in Iowa, you sure don’t see them, or hear them like you used to.

MANAGEMENT CORNER	1
NEW BOOKS	5
RESEARCH CORNER	8
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	10
UPCOMING EVENTS	16



Male Bobwhite Quail
Photo provided by Iowa DNR

The decline of bobwhite quail is a familiar story to most of us involved with Iowa wildlife. As Euro-American settlement in Iowa increased after the Civil War, farms were carved out of the endless tallgrass prairie, creating field edges, fencerows, and weed patches – in other words, perfect quail habitat. Bobwhite numbers increased and the “golden age” of quail hunting was upon us. Good quail shooting could still be had across the state until the 1950’s when intensive farming practices removed most of the quail habitat from the

Quail Management

northern 1/3 of Iowa and subsequently removed the quail as well.

Quail and pheasant continued to be the most sought after Iowa game species in the mid-20th century (remember deer and turkeys were practically non-existent at this time), but quail numbers shrank to smaller and smaller sizes as habitat changes pushed populations to the southern tier of counties.

Weather plays a huge role in quail population numbers from year to year and most quail don't survive their first year of life. Nearly half the quail hatched in summer will be gone by fall hunting season, while 90-95% of a year's quail hatch might be killed before the following

nesting season. For managers, providing the right mix of nesting, foraging, and winter cover in small areas (50 to 100 acres) is the key to bobwhite survival.

Grand River Unit

Iowa DNR wildlife management staff in the Grand River Unit (GRU) of southwest Iowa have been doing intensive quail management for over a decade in Adair, Madison, Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold, and Decatur Counties. In southern Iowa tall fescue and smooth brome, both Eurasian cool season pasture grasses planted for livestock, cover many open areas once occupied by native warm season bunch grasses. The dense sod created in these

pastures is hard for newly hatched quail to fight their way through. Management efforts have focused on removing brome and fescue by spraying in the fall (2 qts. of glyphosate/acre) and replacing these non-native plants with sparse vertical vegetation. Short native plants such as little bluestem grass, side-oats grama grass, partridge pea



Sprayed fescue pasture in the Grand River Unit growing up in sparse vegetation beneficial to quail. Photo by Chad Paup

Quail Management

and even common ragweed provide both food and cover for quail. Traditional tallgrass prairie restoration plantings which end up dominated by big bluestem and Indian grass are too thick in most cases to benefit quail.

Edge feathering is another technique used by the GRU wildlife staff to improve habitat for bobwhite quail. Field borders between mowed hay pastures and forested areas can often create sharp lines of contrast between short open grasslands and tall shadowed stands of trees. To soften these edges and create suitable cover for quail, mature trees found in draws and timber edges get dropped. This increases the amount of sunlight to these areas and promotes the growth of thick brush and thorny vines for quail to shelter under and avoid predators.

Grazing can also be used to replicate disturbances needed for quail. In the GRU over 800 acres are grazed by cattle. This opens up dense pastures and allows young quail to forage for seeds and especially insects more easily. To measure the benefits to the quail population in response to these habitat changes, bobwhite numbers are monitored with point counts in June for calling males and again in October with covey call counts.



Edge feathering and field border disking.
Photo by Chad Paup

Red Rock Unit

Locations of bobwhite quail populations throughout the Red Rock Lake area had been relatively unknown until recently. In the interest of increasing quail management efforts, the Red Rock Wildlife Management Unit of the Iowa DNR (Marion, Warren, Polk, Jasper, Story, Marshal, and Hardin Counties) initiated quail surveys in 2014. Coordination with the DNR and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at Red Rock Lake resulted in 80 sites surveyed over the entire Project area. Of these sites, quail were identified in 14 locations, which represented four main areas. Three of these areas were small sites and on USACE managed land. The other area with quail present was on DNR managed areas in the South River Unit,

Quail Management



Bobwhite quail covey.

Photo by Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

and had the highest densities at Lake Red Rock.

Since 2014, intensified quail surveys and quail management have occurred in the South River Unit. The Unit's goal is to monitor quail densities in response to quail management efforts over time. Creating native weedy areas (ragweed and foxtail) is a main focus, since much of the area lies within the floodpool of Red Rock Lake, making native prairie communities impossible. Reed canary grass, willow, and silver maple invasion is a constant battle in these low lying areas.

Adjacent native upland plantings are dominated with big bluestem and Indian grass. In these areas, disking, spraying grass herbicide, and planting shrubs and black raspberries are some of the management strategies. Large trees along fencerows and drainage ditches have been felled to help create winter covey habitat. In addition, 36 acres of pollinator mix planting will be completed in the Unit during the

summer of 2018.

The Iowa DNR has also started pheasant surveys in portions of the Red Rock Unit, which includes quail management areas. These quail and pheasant surveys will help monitor the population response of the birds as intensive habitat management efforts progress. Even beyond long-term trends, the surveys are very useful each year, recording the locations of observed quail and pheasants in relation to habitat used.

While habitat work continues on county, state, and federal public lands, much of Iowa's rural landscape is privately owned. The terms brushy, thorny, or weedy are not words that landowners usually think of when setting out to "improve" their property. However, increasing the amount of this type of land cover across Iowa would go a long way towards strengthening our bobwhite quail populations. If trends towards ever bigger and weed-free crop fields continue, future generations of Iowans may have to rely on starlings to remember the call of the bobwhite for us.

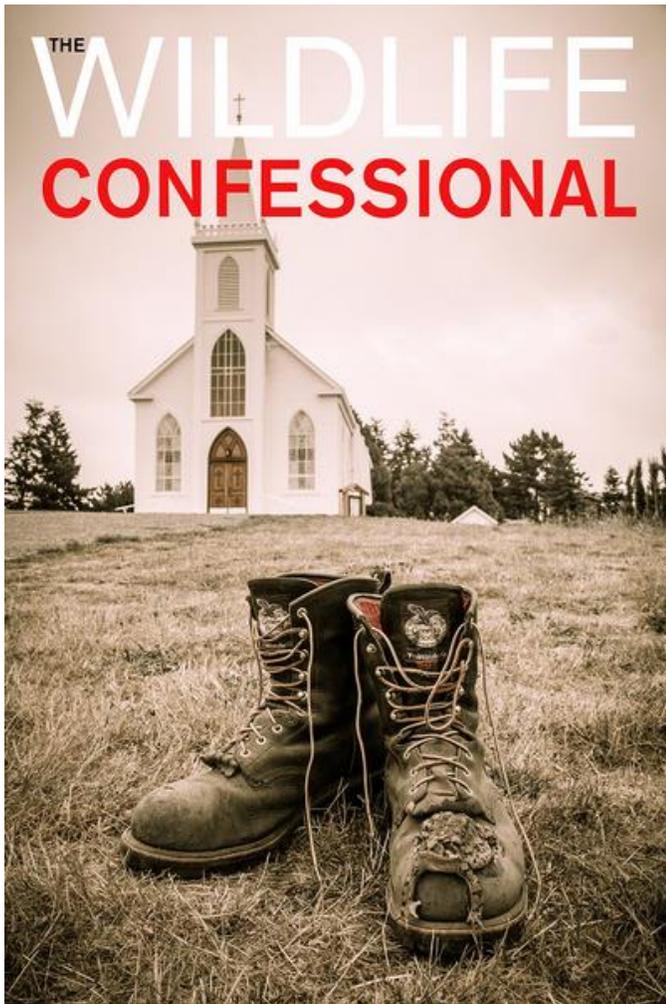
Pete Eyheralde is an Assistant Professor of Biology at William Penn University.

Chad Paup is a Wildlife Management Biologist with the Iowa DNR.

Todd Gosselink is a Wildlife Management Biologist with the Iowa DNR

New Books Produced by TWS

The Wildlife Society – Western Section is excited to announce that *The Wildlife Confessional* anthology, a collection of short stories by dyed-in-the-wool wildlife biologists that endeavors to show the humor and poignancy in our day-to-day adventures that sometimes define and enlighten the profession or that, sometimes, we'd rather forget, is now live.



<https://www.inkshares.com/books/the-wildlife-confessional-an-anthology-of-stories>

The anthology is a collection of fifteen stories by thirteen biologists, including Western Section mem-

bers Brian Cypher, Ivan Parr, Matthew Bettelheim, and the late Thomas A. Roberts. It also includes contributions by published authors Marcy Cottrell Houle (*Wings for my Flight, One City's Wilderness, The Prairie Keepers*) and J. Drew Lanham (*The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*), and a memoir of the late Dr. Charles Jonkel, co-founder of the Great Bear Foundation.

The authors whose stories have been collected here represent men and women from all walks of wildlife biology – State and Federal biologists, consultants, students, professors, interns – and take place across North and Central America, from the Gulf of Alaska to San Ignacio, Belize, from the tropics of the Hawaiian Islands to the deserts of Arizona, and in the desert springs, coastal bluffs, national parks, stock ponds, pick-up trucks, trap-lines, doctor's offices, roof tops, outhouses, and bombing ranges scattered everywhere in between.

At a cover price of \$20 paperback / \$10 ebook, this anthology is a labor of love. One of the primary reasons the authors and editors behind *The Wildlife Confessional* have undertaken this project is to educate and attract students to enter the field of wildlife biology and to apply money raised through book sales to support student involvement in The Wildlife Society by funding scholarships, grants, and training opportunities. Your support will help us realize those goals.

You can also follow the project on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Wildlife-Confessional-1070767069681846/>

New Books Produced by TWS

Are you thinking about a career with a state wildlife agency or already a seasoned professional working for one? Either way, this newest book in TWS' Wildlife Conservation and Management series, "State Wildlife Management and Conservation," is a must have.

TWS Past President Tom Ryder, now retired after a long career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, brings together wildlife leaders from practical, policy, and academic backgrounds to tell the story of state wildlife agencies, chronicling their efforts to restore and protect our nation's natural resources.

With more than 40 contributors, the book



State Wildlife Management and Conservation

EDITED BY *Thomas J. Ryder*

provides a comprehensive, nationwide account of state management efforts. It will aid professors training the next generation of wildlife professionals, students hoping to enter the profession, and anyone working with wildlife to develop a more sophisticated understanding of what it means to be a state wildlife biologist.

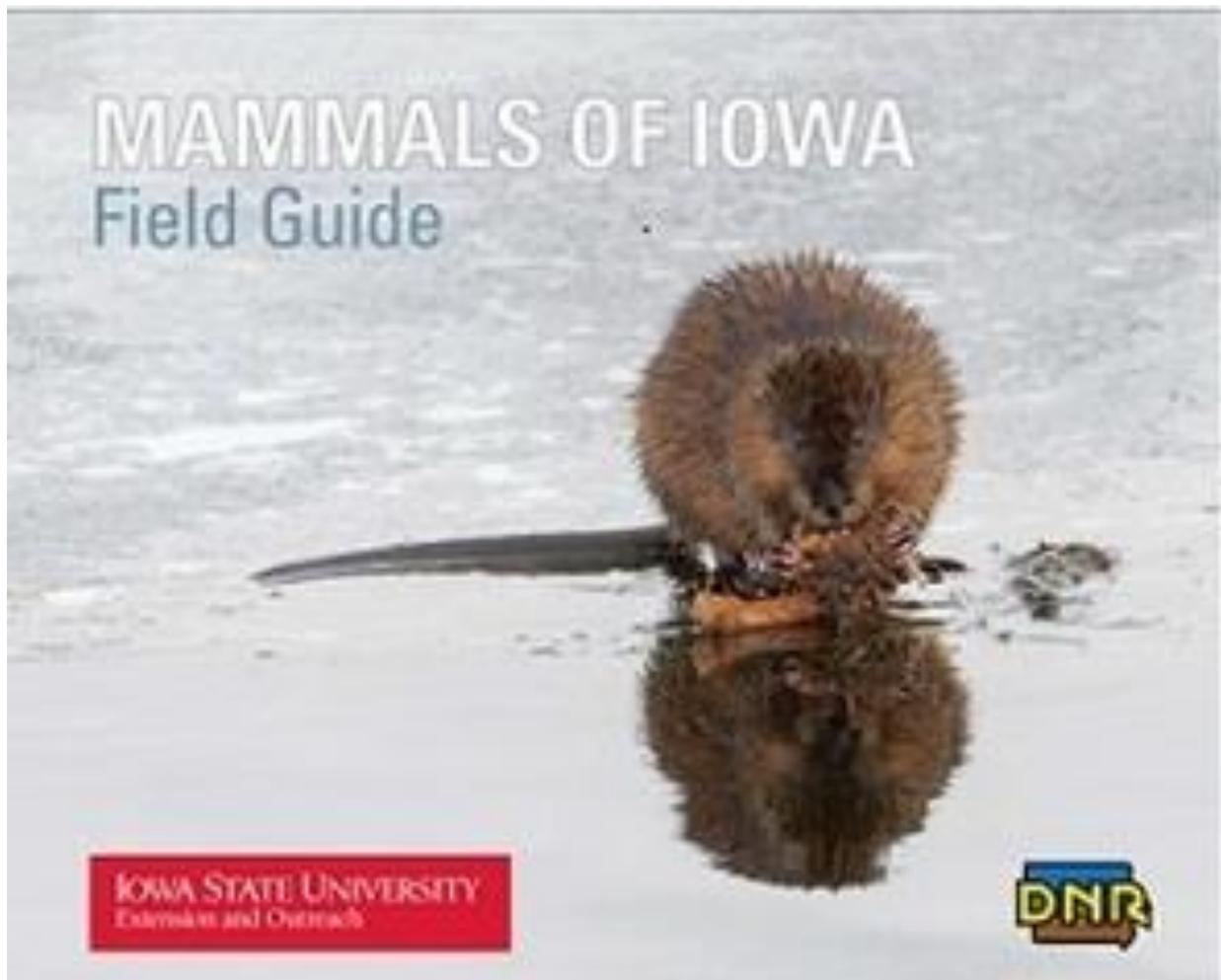
TWS members receive a 30 percent discount off the cover price of \$75.

New Field Guide to Iowa Mammals

Wildlife enthusiasts have a new book to enjoy about all things furry in Iowa. Biologists from the Iowa DNR and Iowa State University collaborated to create a new guide to all of Iowa's mammal species, from Hayden's Shrew to the Gray Fox.

The booklet is currently available for download, free of charge, from the ISU extension store and printed copies will be available soon for a small price. Check it out!

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15391>



**Research
Corner**

Iowa DNR MSIM Research

This spring the Iowa DNR's Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring, or MSIM crews are once again heading out into the field to collect data about Iowa's faunal diversity. The project has been up and running since 2006, and last summer I had the chance to work as a wildlife survey technician in the program. This survey is an amazing opportunity for college students to learn and gain experience in field ecology.



**MSIM tech conducting small mammal survey.
Photo by: Pete Eyheralde**



**MSIM herptile survey.
Photo by: Jake Hurd**

The goal of the project is to inventory the diversity and abundance of wildlife species across the state, including vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals) and some invertebrates (dragonflies, damselflies, and crayfish), as well as to conduct long-term monitoring of sites to provide information about wildlife population responses to habitat changes.

Throughout my time on the north east Iowa MSIM crew I learned quite a bit about different survey techniques, explored some amazing corners of Iowa, and was able to get a solid handle on field identification of most Iowa wildlife species. One survey method we used for mammals, herptiles (reptiles and amphibians), and odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) was a meander survey, or a visual encounter survey.

**Research
Corner**

Iowa DNR MSIM Research



**MSIM herp survey.
Photo by: Jake Hurd**

data for one hour at each site.

We also deployed camera traps for detection of large mammals and birds, Sherman box traps for capturing small mammals, and a few different kinds of aquatic traps for collecting turtles (it was always a good time pulling up a turtle). Opening a Sherman box trap one morning to find a baby

Four person-hours of searching and data collection were required at each study site. This might mean one person recording observations for four hours, or four field techs recording

opossum inside was surprising for sure! We conducted point counts at dawn to identify birds by sight and sound. We also used Anabat acoustic monitors to record bat call data for later identification in the lab. For a couple of weeks, we even suited up in chest waders to do electro-fishing and mussel surveys at some sites. Some of my more memorable finds of the field season were the numerous tiger salamanders, catching red-bellied snakes for the first time, spotting bobcat tracks, and a few sightings of meadow jumping mice.

I spent my summer with three other technicians, and made some solid friendships, as spending five months together at all hours of the day will tend to do. The chance to spend hours exploring the bluffs and wetlands of north east Iowa were amazing enough on their own, but the best part was all the animal interactions that we got to experience through the program. Whether it was flipping rocks and finding snakes I'd never seen in person before, dip-netting tadpoles, or learning about all the different odonates, MSIM was fun time that I had to keep reminding myself I was getting paid for.

Wes Yoder is an Outdoor Science Instructor for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Minutes of the Iowa TWS Business Meeting February 7, 2018

Iowa TWS Business Meeting February 7, 2018 Quality Inn & Suites, Ames

Meeting Attendance - 102
Start Time - 4:06 pm
End Time – 5:06 pm

Call to Order - 4:06 pm – Pete Hildreth, President

Election Results and Welcome of New Officers – Pete Hildreth

Pete announced the election results as follows:

President-Elect: Nick Baumgartner (def. Shannon Hansel)

Member at Large: Nathan Schmitz (def. Amy Crouch)

Newly elected Officers will begin their terms immediately, with a short transition period.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary: Dusten Paulus

Reminded the membership that the minutes had been sent out to current members via email
Read a condensed version of the business meeting minutes from the 2017 Fall Meeting held at Port Louisa.

Shannon Hansel motioned to approve the business meeting minutes from the 2017 Fall Meeting.
Eric Systma second. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Dusten Paulus

Reminded the membership that the treasurer's report had been made available during the day in hopes that everyone has had a chance to see it. Told anyone with questions to contact him.

Gave a condensed version of the treasurer's report from 2 February 2017 through 6 February 2018

Stephanie Shepherd motioned to approve the treasurer's report as read. Greg Schmitt second. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: Travis Russell-Chair

Travis was not present. Nothing to report.

Awards Committee: Stephanie Shepherd-Chair

Stephanie discussed this year's hall of fame award recipient and mentioned that there is a form online to fill out for new nominees.

Conservation Review Committee: Katy Reeder-Chair

Katy reported that the committee was not very active this year.

Informed folks that there are many levels in the conservation review process within TWS, and that we can work with other states to get more accomplished.

Education and Information Committee:

Pete Eyheralde-Chair

Pete E. asked folks to give input for the next newsletter to go out in the spring.
He also mentioned a student doing work on spotted skunk (civet cat) and they are looking for data regarding sightings, historical info, etc.
Pete mentioned that he had brought bison skulls that were for sale if anyone was interested.

Membership Committee: Dusten Paulus-Chair

Dusten reported that the committee had done nothing this year. He put out a request for new members to the committee and welcomed any new ideas to increase membership.

Resolutions and Public Statements: Brain Sauer-Chair

Nothing to report.

Minutes of the Iowa TWS Business Meeting February 7, 2018

Nominations and Elections: Pete E.-Chair

Elections results were read earlier. Pete Hildreth mentioned that there was some confusion on who chaired the committee. Stephanie S. mentioned that the bylaws stated that the former president elect is supposed to chair the committee the following year. Greg Schmitt volunteered to chair the committee until the post president rotation could be set.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Workshop Overview

Pete E. discussed the 2017 Fall Workshop that was held at Port Louisa NWR in early September that focused on herps. Nearly 50 in attendance at the workshop, 43 at business meeting.

He gave a brief overview of the workshop, presenters and discussions.

Midwest Furbearer Workshop

Vince Elvelsizer discussed the Midwest Furbearer Workshop that was held in Decorah, IA in June at Luther College.

He gave a brief overview of the workshop, presenters and discussions.

Dusten Paulus mentioned that the IA TWS chapter made around \$300 profit from hosting the workshop and suggested we host again in 6 years when the opportunity comes around.

ISU Student Conclave 2017

Tianna Kinzie, ISU Student Chapter President, and Casie Baird ISU Student Chapter Fundraiser Chair gave an update on the 2017 Student Conclave they attended at Purdue University.

Thanked the TWS members for our sponsorship in their attendance.

REAP Alliance Renewal

- Tyler Harms discussed the merit of REAP Alliance membership.

- He discussed how the dues are used for a committee that helps guide decisions on how REAP funds are allocated. Also mentioned Karen Kinkaed has been representing IA REAP Alliance.

Stephanie Shepard motioned to renew membership with REAP Alliance for \$150. Doug Harr second. Motion carried.

ICA Membership Renewal

Pete H. asked for any discussion or motions related to our membership in ICA.

Tyler Harms explained exactly what ICA is and does, why it is important to fund this for lobbyist at the capitol regarding conservation issues.

Todd Bogenschutz is the liaison for this alliance.

Paul Frese motioned to renew our membership at \$2,500. Mike Olson second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ISU Student Chapter Conclave

- Tianna Kinzie, ISU Student Chapter President, and Casie Baird ISU Student Chapter Fundraiser Chair announced that they are looking for financial support for hosting the Student Chapter Conclave in Ames, IA in 2018. They asked for \$2,000 in support of hosting this event which has not been at ISU in over 25 years.

Jim Jansen motioned to support the ISU Student Chapter Conclave request with \$2,000. Stephanie Shepard second. Motion carried.

Mammals of IA Update

Stephanie Shepard noted that the mammals of Iowa booklet had not been updated since the mid 1970's and that it needed revamped, along with the field guide.

Mentioned she is looking for funding sources to print off new pamphlets.

Minutes of the Iowa TWS Business Meeting February 7, 2018

IWILL

Rick Tebbs reminded folks that Monday is IWILL day at the capital, go support IWILL!

COOP Unit Program

Bill Clark mentioned the COOP unit program, lack of Fish and Wildlife funding, wanted to draft a letter in support of funding.

Bill Clark and Katy Reeder are going to work on drafting a letter and are willing to take on any folks who want to help.

Erv Klaas talked about writing letters to the right people and their importance. Klaas discussed at length the importance of contacting government officials and writing letters discussion conservation issues and that closed door politics are dangerous. Made a reference to this happening back 1981.

Marlene Ehresman mentioned that individual letters help too. Suggested having a help day with folks on how to write effective letters to members of the government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pete Hildreth announced that the TWS would be hosting a fall workshop sometime in September. Looking for suggestions on location but hoping to hold it somewhere in the SW district, perhaps the Loess Hills. Look for more information in the future, possibly in the spring newsletter for updates.

Katy Reeder mentioned a free membership nomination form with a kick back program for national membership.

Vince Elvelsizer reminded folks that if they have any skulls of furbearers to get to him, they could put them in his truck outside.

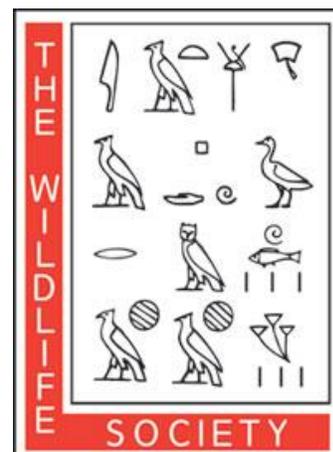
Todd Bogenschutz reminded folks that if they had wings to drop off they could get them to him any time.

Dave Kutz made a motion to adjourn. Amy Crouch second. Motion carried.

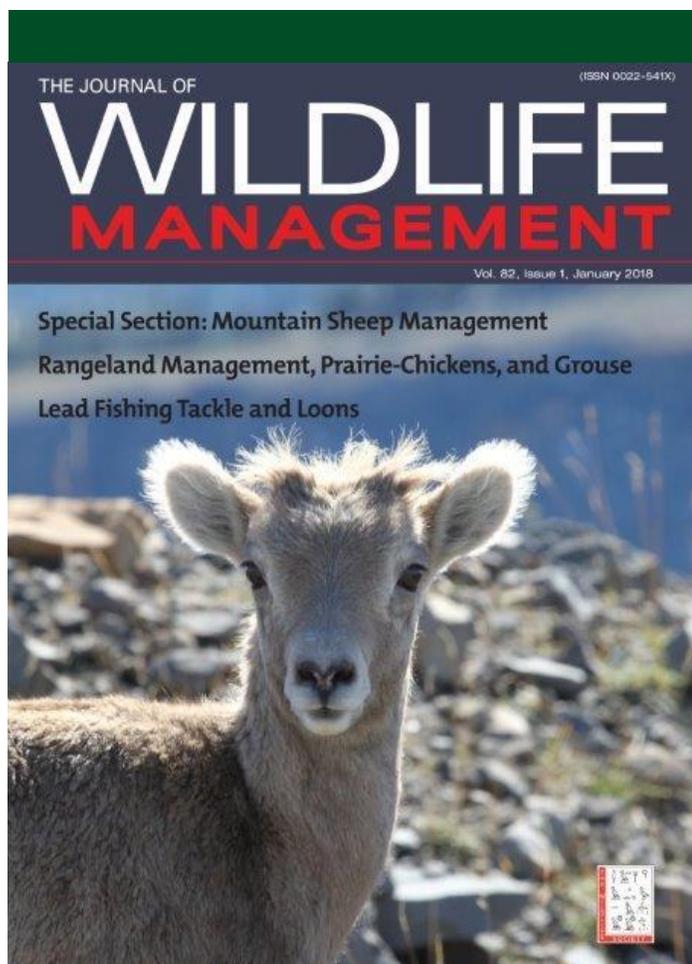
Meeting Adjourned – 5:06 p.m.



ITWS President Pete Hildreth congratulates Jim Wooly upon receiving the Conservation Hall of Fame Award at the 2018 Winter Meeting. Photo by Stephanie Shepherd



Make TWS Journals Your Publishing Choice in 2018



A lot of factors go into choosing where to publish your wildlife research findings. TWS wants to make our journals your first choice in 2018. Here's what we are doing to encourage members to publish in one of the Society's three scholarly journals: *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Society Bulletin* and *Wildlife Monographs*.

Reduced page charges for members

As a TWS member, you are eligible for **40 percent off** the standard page charges. In 2018, we have also eliminated all color page

charges.

The following page charges and publication fees apply to all manuscripts, except Letters to the Editor, Invited Papers, and Book Reviews, that go into production after Jan. 1, 2018.

Journal of Wildlife Management

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$90 per published page for the first 8 pages

\$150 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors are a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$150 per page

Authors also may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option; the fee for publication will be \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.

Wildlife Society Bulletin

If any author is a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$50 per published page for the first 10 pages

\$80 for every page thereafter

If none of the authors is a member of The Wildlife Society:

\$80 per page for the first 10 pages

\$130 for every page thereafter

Authors may choose to publish the manuscript under TWS' and Wiley's open-access option;

TWS Journals

the fee for publication is \$3,000 in lieu of page charges.

Wildlife Monographs

Beginning Jan. 1, The Wildlife Society **reduced the publication fees for *Wildlife Monographs* from \$10,000 to \$7,500 and eliminated color page charges** to encourage authors to publish their work in this highly regarded journal. The journal's 2016 Impact Factor was 5.75 and it ranked number one of 162 publications in the zoology category and 12 of 153 in ecology.

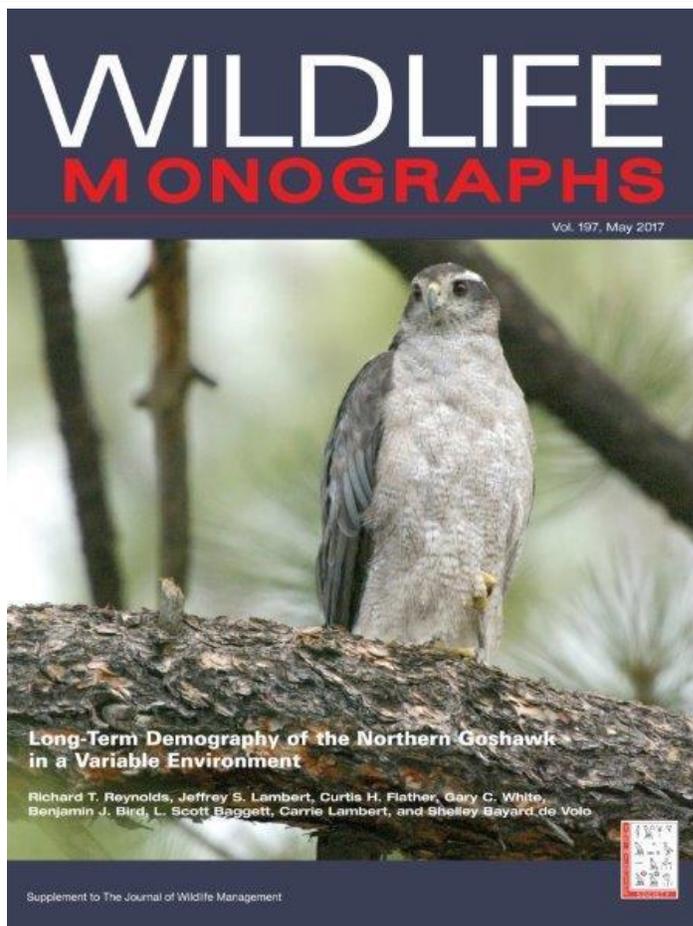
For the first time, we have created **an open-access option for *Wildlife Monographs***, which allows anyone to read the published paper in the Wiley Online Library. The publication fee for this option is \$10,000.

Streamlined guidelines for authors

We know author guidelines are no fun to read, so that's why the journal editors and editorial staff have [revised the guidelines](#) and put all information you need for quick-reference at the very beginning of the guidelines.

High visibility

Your published work can be seen by 10,000 of your peers because all TWS members have online access to TWS journals. Plus Wiley offers tips for how to get more publicity for your published work.



Check out this [free promotional toolkit](#). TWS also works with Wiley to promote newly published papers to world-wide media outlets.

Did you know that over 4,200 institutions subscribe to the *Journal of Wildlife Management/Wildlife Monographs* and more than 1,500 to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*? This means that virtually the entire wildlife community can access your published work.

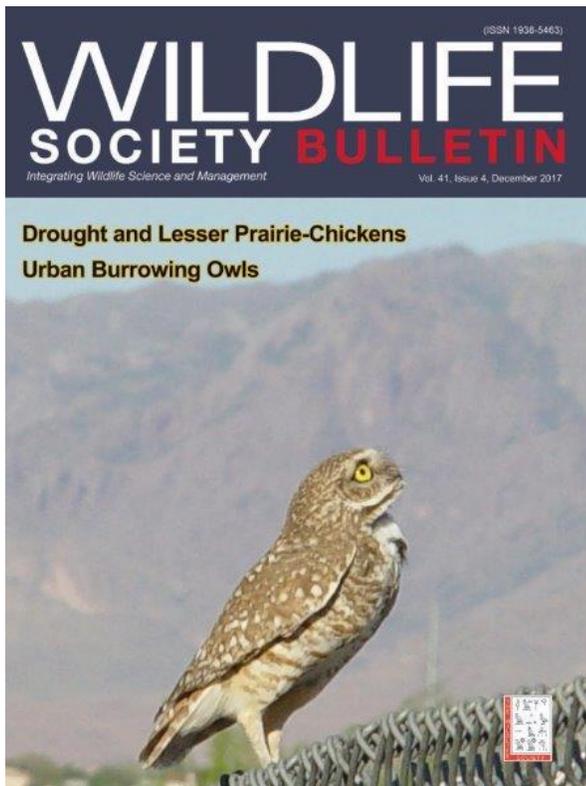
Supporting TWS' Strategic Plan

There's one more important reason to publish

TWS Journals

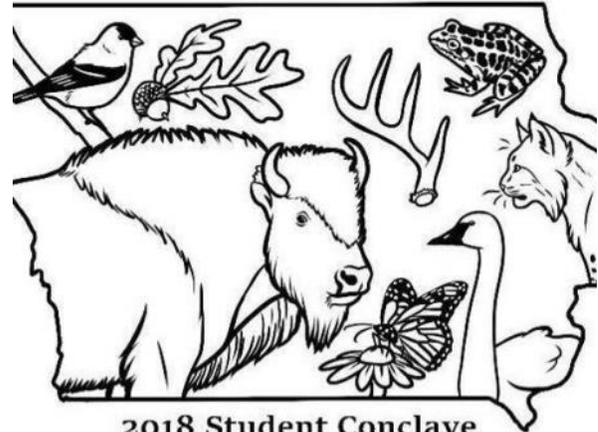
in TWS journals that members may not think of often. One of TWS' strategic themes is being a recognized and trusted organization for expertise on science-based wildlife management and conservation. When you publish with your Society, you are lending your support to our strategic plan.

With your help, we can grow the impact of TWS journals on achieving a positive impact on the sustainability of wildlife populations for future generations.



Nancy Sasavage is TWS Director of Publications and Communications and Editor-in-Chief of *The Wildlife Professional*

TWS North Central Section



2018 Student Conclave
Boone, IA



Trumpeter Swan restoration talk



River otter necropsy



Participants at the event hosted by the ISU TWS student chapter.

Upcoming Events

- **Project A.W.A.R.E.** - July 9 - 13, 2018
Maquoketa River-Delaware, Jones, and Jackson Counties
- **Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium Field Day**—July 10, 2018
Glacial Ridge NWR Mentor, MN
www.tposfirescience.org
- **Iowa Association of Naturalists Wilderness First Aid Workshop** August 1-3, 2018
Ingawanis Woodland in Bremer County
- **Iowa TWS Fall Workshop** September in the Loess Hills of South West Iowa. Exact dates TBD.
- **National TWS Conference** - October 7-11 2018
Cleveland, OH
www.twsconference.org
- **Central Plains Society of Mammalogists Annual Meeting**—October 12-13 Stillwater, OK
<http://groupspaces.com/cpsm/>

Reptiles and Amphibians of Iowa

Submit your herp finds this summer to www.iowaherps.com part of the herpmapper network for documenting species occurrence.



Species ID, voucher photos, location, and descriptions of your find are needed to map reptile and amphibian species distribution across Iowa.

Wild Turkey Survey



You can help the Iowa DNR with its annual population estimates by reporting all turkeys seen in July and August. This is an important component of management plans for turkeys. Hunter participation is appreciated.

The DNR will have a link to an online survey on its website before the survey begins on July 1, Contact: Jim Coffey, Forest Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Bureau, Iowa DNR

Pete Eyheralde
Newsletter Editor
(eyheraldep@wmpenn.edu)

2018 Iowa Chapter The Wildlife Society Executive Committee

President: Pete Hildreth
President-Elect: Nick Baumgartner
Past President: Pete Eyheralde
Secretary-Treasurer: Dusten Paulus
Member at Large: Nathan Schmitz