



Volume (2022), Issue 2

Summer 2022

## Field Perspectives: How Human-Wildlife Conflict Fits in the World of Conservation

By Andy Kellner

There exists an intrinsic inclination to look at the world around us asking, “How does this affect me?” Everything is in relation to the routine of our own personal life: our job, our family, our money, our health, our pets, our backyard... Which makes sense. We tend to be creatures of focus and that focus comes with implicit bias based merely on ourselves being the one that is doing the focusing. This is structured around what we know.

As wildlife professionals, our focus tends to be on particular species, management areas, or the landscape. This helps focus our goals and, through actionable management or research actions, meet certain criteria for these natural resources. Therefore, it can be quite the wake-up call when the phone rings and it is someone not happy with the species at hand.

Take a recent call to Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff about a conflict with a turtle. What kind of turtle? Unknown. How was this turtle causing a problem? Existing. Where was it conducting this nefarious behavior? A backyard. The mere presence of an unknown creature in a place it had not been previously witnessed was enough to prompt a call of concern to the state agency charged with managing this natural resource.

It’s very easy for DNR staff to simply dismiss this situation out of hand. The turtle will move on and was most likely in search of a nesting site or moving between waterbodies. Wildlife professionals know this but the caller does not. While this situation will resolve itself, this approach, much like the hands-off approach of conducting no management on a wildlife area, carries with it certain pros, cons, and other repercussions.

If a wildlife manager decides to take a hands-off approach to prairie management, the habitat will respond in certain, mostly predictable ways in the long term. Succession will take place.

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## Human-Wildlife Conflict Continued



### **Education is often the key to resolving human-wildlife conflicts.**

An initially slow encroachment of shrubby and woody species will begin the process of competing with prairie grasses and forbs. Eventually larger areas will be shaded out making way for more shrubs and eventually large trees. Invasive species may take advantage of the disruption to the setting, and trees will gain a foothold. Forty years down the road the prairie will no longer be a prairie but rather a young timber stand with stocking issues and the occasional opening. Gone are the pheasants, but the raccoon population is trending upward strongly. If that was the goal of the action of no management, then job well done. Otherwise, if the goal was to maintain prairie then future land managers will be in for a tough fight to reverse the course and make this area a prairie yet again.

If the goal for resolving human-wildlife conflict is minimal staff input, then letting situations resolve themselves is a very efficient way to obtain the goal. The public could learn to put up with certain situations or take the matters into their own hands. Law enforcement staff can sort out who did it legally and

who did not. Calls into staff will decrease which could be viewed as a decrease in complaints but, in truth, is because there is no benefit to calling. Private businesses may be established to take care of these troublesome situations how they see fit as the public turns to alternative options. And, if the government agency is not helping with the initial calls then a certain friction will develop if it tries to regulate how these businesses conduct themselves. If this friction sparks then it will be the place of elected officials to step in and streamline the process for those that they are hearing from. Now a new landscape has been established where regard for the natural resource is at the bottom of the conversation, if not gone altogether. Future wildlife professionals will have a tough fight ahead to steer the conversation to once again be mindful of the resource.

**As fire is to prairie management, education and outreach are to wildlife conflict.** In the profession of wildlife conflict, often the line is blurry between managing people and managing wildlife. The connection, in many cases, between the two is understanding. Now, wildlife can only be expected to understand so much. There are various techniques to sway that understanding like aversive conditioning and repellents. On the other hand, humans are quite capable of increasing their knowledge base and understanding. Priming that opportunity is like preparing for a prescribed fire.

**Size up the conditions and prepare the site.** The easiest first step to take with any wildlife conflict, while time consuming, is to talk with the person and listen. Who are you? What is the problem? Where is this occurring? Who all is involved? What other details can we learn? What can be learned and what can be taught in this situation? Take notes and establish a clear map of the situation.

**Assemble a team.** Resolution between the person

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## Human-Wildlife Conflict Continued

involved and the wildlife involved is only going to occur together with the DNR and with the person calling so make sure everyone is on the same side. Team members need to be briefed and understand as much as possible about what the situation is. Instruct and lead team members to a comfortable place of understanding and answer any questions they may have. Educate as much as possible for the situation about the species involved so there is true understanding for why we are approaching things in specific ways. Sometimes this is leading them by the hand and sometimes this handing over a tool and pointing the direction to go. Providing the opportunity to learn and resolve the situation themselves is a powerful action step.

**Develop goals and create a plan.** Working together to brainstorm options and strategies will result in the best options for the specific situation. Tools in the bag include exclusion and fencing, pyrotechnics and scare devices, the use of trained animals, repellents,



**Educating the public about wildlife can be a lot like preparing for a prescribed fire.**

altering the available habitat, removing food sources, relocation, and lethal management. Application of these items in specific, thoughtful ways will produce the best outcome. Some education on how these tools work and why they work will result in more effective use. Make sure

everyone understands the goals and is comfortable with the plan.

**Check the weather and light a test fire.** If it is safe to do so, it is time to start putting the tools into place to resolve the conflict. Proceed with the plan and check in from time to time to make sure the conditions are still right for these activities. Measure the results and make sure goals and objectives are being met. We don't burn just to burn and we don't kill just to kill. Carry-out the actions in accordance with a plan that was developed for that site with the team to meet the goals. Agency staff has provided the technical advice and this is the citizen's opportunity to take action.

**Mop-up and assessment.** Check back on progress and if there are tools that did not function properly. Take a look around for things that did not go according to plan and be available for aid in case of a slopover. Check to make sure there aren't any conflicts that may reignite. Follow-up is important for building trust, building relationships, and establishing the state agency as a source of reliable information.

While this seems a like a lot of steps for a turtle in a yard, think of the foundation that has been established. Trust and usefulness are established between the DNR and this private citizen. Knowledge about turtle species, turtle ecology, turtle diet, and turtle habits have been acquired by the public. Knowledge shared in a positive way will create greater appreciation for the resource. Responsible, ethical strategies are discussed that will work to resolve this conflict and lay a foundation for future wildlife encounters, broadening perspective and shifting the focus. The smoke has cleared and the new question is, "How does this affect us?"

Note—don't burn the turtle.

**Andy Kellner** is a Wildlife Biologist for the Depredation Program of the Iowa DNR.

## Iowa DNR Uses Automated Radio Telemetry to Track Bird Migrations

## Research Corner

Many bird conservation and research efforts focus on the breeding period, but for long-distance migrant species, whose full-annual-cycles include 1,000+ mile migrations and 4 or more months spent outside of North America, a focus on the breeding period alone isn't enough. North America has lost an alarming 2.9 billion birds, roughly 30% of all individuals, since 1970 (Rosenberg et al. 2019, Science), despite ongoing conservation and habitat management efforts. Understanding the limiting factors of bird populations not only in the breeding range, but also during migration and wintering, is critical to reserving these declining population trends. For birds like cranes, raptors, and waterfowl, GPS technology can be used to understand migratory behavior and connectivity at



high temporal and spatial resolution. Yet, for many species, like shorebirds, sparrows, thrushes, and warblers, their bodies are too small to support GPS technology, and until recently, banding and recovery data (with very low recovery rates for nongame species) was the best researchers could do to learn about large-scale movements of small birds. But in 2013, Birds Canada started the Motus Wildlife Tracking System ([motus.org](http://motus.org)), a collaborative network of automated radio telemetry arrays used to track the large-scale movements of small wildlife. In just 10 years, this system has contributed to the understanding of movement ecology of 290 species of wildlife globally and made huge progress in filling knowledge gaps in the full-annual-cycle of migratory bird species of conservation need.

The Motus system, motus being the Latin word for movement, relies on a large collaboration of independent researchers, operating within a centralized database, using radio telemetry to track wildlife movements. Across the Western Hemisphere, receiver stations and tagging efforts on the Motus system operate on two specific radio frequencies (166.38MHz or 434MHz). Radio transmitters

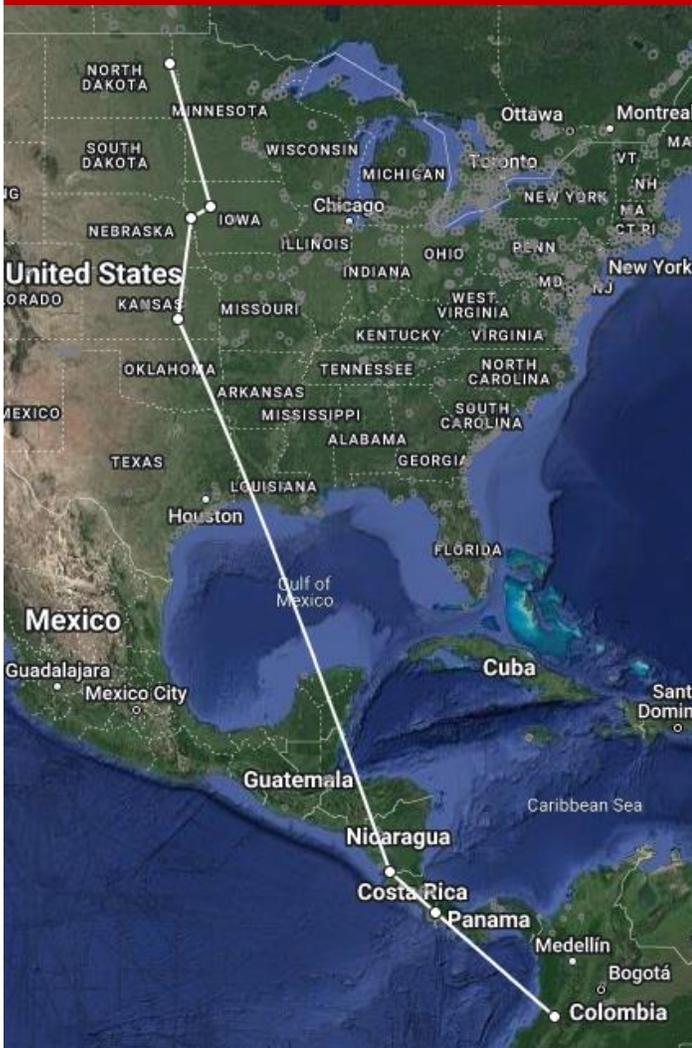


**GPS backpack units can be used for tracking large birds like waterfowl.**

**Photo: New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife**

## Iowa DNR Uses Automated Radio Telemetry to Track Bird Migrations

## Research Corner



**Figure 1:** A screenshot of the spring migration of a Lesser Yellowlegs in April and May 2022. This bird was tagged in Colombia on April 19, 2022. On May 4<sup>th</sup> it crossed Costa Rica in 4 hours and 40 minutes. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, it was later detected in Kansas, then twice in western Iowa, at times flying over 80 mph. The bird was detected at a station in eastern North Dakota on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Visit <https://motus.org/data/track?tagDeploymentId=38367> to view an interactive map of this bird's journey.

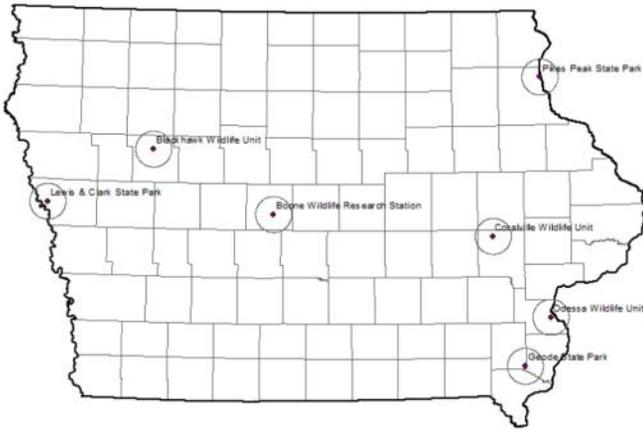
operating on each of these frequencies are micro-coded so thousands of unique individuals can be identified while only having to listen for one or two frequencies. This makes it possible to set up a system of stationary automated radio receiver stations that are always ready to detect a signal from tagged wildlife. When a bird, bat, insect, or other critter tagged on a Motus frequency comes close enough to a receiver station (within 6-9 miles, depending on antenna size), it is recorded and identified and the data is uploaded to the Motus website. All the data from animals tagged and detected on the system goes into a centralized database, allowing researchers to collaboratively track large-scale movements of individual wildlife. So, for example, a Lesser Yellowlegs tagged by researchers in Colombia in April could later be detected by receiver stations in Costa Rica, Kansas, western Iowa, and eastern North Dakota in May; which is exactly what happened in spring 2022 (Figure 1)! Multiple detections of individuals across time can be combined, point by point, to learn about the paths, timing, and speed of small animal movements, and the system can also be used to learn about localized habitat and space use during stations periods.

As part of a collaborative effort across the Midwest, Iowa DNR has been able to contribute to this important work, by installing seven automated radio telemetry receiver stations as part of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Figure 2). The project was made possible by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Competitive State Wildlife Grant that provided funds for 50 new telemetry receiver stations in Midwest states and 11 more in Mexico, Costa Rica, and

## Iowa DNR Uses Automated Radio Telemetry to Track Bird Migrations

## Research Corner

Colombia. Increasing the density of receiver stations in the Midwest increases the probability of detecting wildlife tagged on the system and improves the spatial scale of information gathered, while also helping us learn more about the way migratory birds use the region.



**Figure 2:** Motus wildlife telemetry receiver stations in Iowa as of August 2022.

Receiver stations in Iowa are dual-listening and can detect tags on either of the Motus frequencies (Figure 3). The first station was installed in August 2021, and the most recent stations were installed in April 2022, thus we've been able to capture a partial fall migration, a full spring migration, and now the start of a second fall migration period so far. Over that time, Iowa receiver stations have detected 25 individual birds from 12 species [American Kestrel (n=4), American Redstart (n=1), Black Tern (n=1), Common Nighthawk (n=1), Golden-winged Warbler (n=1), Least Sandpiper (n=1), Lesser yellowlegs (n=4), Rusty Blackbird (n=1), Sora (n=3), Stilt Sandpiper



**Figure 3:** A Motus wildlife telemetry receiver station operated by Iowa DNR at Pikes Peak State Park.

(n=1), Virginia Rail (n=6), Whimbrel (n=1)]. The Iowa DNR receiver stations installed will be permanent fixtures for at least the next 10 years, always ready to detect tagged wildlife in Iowa.

**Anna Buckardt Thomas** is an Avian Ecologist with the Iowa DNR.

## Species Spotlight: Gray Treefrog



### **Eastern Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)**

Watching the world from my back deck this week, I noticed that the lightshow provided by the local fireflies of early summer had given way to the August orchestra of cicadas and tree crickets. One constant visitor to our back door that was still making an appearance each evening was a lone gray treefrog, hoping for an easy meal under the porch light. For a while this summer I didn't know which of Iowa's two treefrog species was hanging out with us, as the Cope's (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) and the eastern gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) are physically identical. But once he voiced his clear, low-pitched trill I knew he was an eastern. The Cope's gray tree frog has a much raspier, faster, and higher-pitched trill. Other than genetic tests, the calls of the male frogs are the only reliable way to tell these two species apart. Both species can have patterns of blotches on their back (or not) and both species can change color rapidly, ranging from gray (as the name suggests), to green, to tan, even almost white.

The eastern gray treefrog is actually a mutation of the Cope's. The eastern gray treefrog is a tetraploid organism, meaning it has four sets of chromosomes in each cell, rather than the usual two, while the Cope's gray treefrog is a diploid organism, like you and me,

having the normal (for vertebrates anyway) two sets of chromosomes in each cell. At some point in their evolutionary history, a mutation occurred during meiosis (that's the cell division that creates sperm and egg cells, if you remember way back from BIO 1), causing daughter cells to form with two sets of chromosomes (diploid) instead of the normal one set in each sex cell (haploid). This mutation event must have occurred enough times in a population that viable tetraploid tadpoles were produced after mating. BAM! Instant new species. Based on the latest genetic evidence, we figure that tetraploid gray treefrog species originated multiple times through interbreeding events with Cope's gray tree frogs and two other, extinct, lineages of tree frogs. This is thought to have occurred sometime in the early Pleistocene. Tetraploid lineages then merged through interbreeding to form a single species, with geographically separated populations of treefrogs developing different call patterns over time.



### **Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)**

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## Gray Treefrog Continued

The eastern gray treefrog tends to prefer denser closed canopy forests, while the Cope's is more often found in open woodlands and savannas. However, the ranges and habitats of the two frog species overlap. Most of the time call differences prevent these two frogs from accidentally interbreeding, and if they did, the chromosome difference would prevent eggs from being fertilized almost all of the time. Female gray treefrogs are actually very picky about the male calls they are attracted to. Studies have shown that that male treefrogs with louder, longer, more sustained call sequences attract more females. This is thought to be a fitness indicator (like big antlers on deer), or an advertisement of good genes. In Iowa, most treefrog calls are heard in April and May, but I hear them calling sporadically throughout the summer.

Soon enough the cool winds of autumn will blow away this hot summer we've been having and the treefrogs on my back deck will head for winter quarters under logs and leaves. Winter air temperatures still dip well below freezing in these locations, but treefrogs have the ability convert glycerol into glucose in their livers, and then distribute this throughout their other organs, creating natural antifreeze. This prevents damaging ice crystals from forming in the organs, while other water in the body is allowed to freeze. You basically have frozen frog-cicles until spring.

A fun experiment to try with your kids (or the neighbor's kids) this fall, is to catch a treefrog, put it a jar or plastic container full of leaves, place it in your refrigerator for a week or so, then transfer it to your freezer for the winter. In the spring you can thaw the frog slowly in the refrigerator and it'll come out good as new, ready to catch bugs in your yard. It's kind of like magic! If you tried this with a mouse it would be dead when you thawed it out in spring (maybe don't



**Both of Iowa's gray tree frog species can change color rapidly.**

try the mouse, it might traumatize the kids – and your partner might not appreciate the wonders of science if he or she finds a dead mouse in their freezer while getting ready to cook dinner – I know, I've seen this happen).

The cicadas off my back deck are still calling frantically in the late summer heat and our resident treefrog is still waiting patiently for a bug to stray too close, but a few cottonwood leaves are starting to yellow. So I can't help but start thinking about the cool rains of fall, wood smoke on frosty nights, and the magic of frozen frogs.

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

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Iowa

Avian influenza viruses are characterized using two proteins: hemagglutinin (H1-16) and neuraminidase (N1-9). The combination of these proteins is what we call a subtype (e.g. H1N1) which may describe a number of different strains. Strains commonly circulate in aquatic bird species, notably waterfowl, which can serve as disease reservoirs, showing few to no signs of infection. Strains are characterized as low pathogenic or high pathogenic based on how they affect chickens, with H5 and H7 subtypes at an elevated risk of becoming highly pathogenic.

In December 2021, a Eurasian-origin strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza, H5N1 (2.3.4.4) was detected in a multi-species exhibition flock in Canada. By January 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced its first detection in a hunter-harvested American wigeon from South Carolina. Indiana reported the first detection in a commercial poultry operation (turkeys) in February,



**Swabbing hunter harvested ducks for avian influenza detection.**

**Photo: USGS**

Iowa, especially bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, and great-horned owls. Water birds like American white pelicans also sustained intermittent but, at times,

***Report bird sickness and death events, especially those involving more than 5 individuals or those showing neurologic signs such as head nodding, circling, or body tremors.***

and detections continued across the United States in commercial flocks, backyard flocks, and wild birds throughout the spring. Though activity in the Pacific Flyway lagged behind the others, mortality continued to increase on the West Coast this summer.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) in partnership with USDA announced the state's first detection in a non-commercial backyard poultry flock in Pottowattamie County on March 2nd. Within a week, we had our first detection in a wild mallard. Though some waterfowl were affected, including snow and Ross's geese early on, raptors were the hardest hit group in

devastating impacts. Though a number of songbirds were also screened from single or cluster mortality events this past spring, avian influenza virus was never detected in these species in Iowa.

The last detection in a commercial flock in Iowa occurred on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Likewise, despite ongoing surveillance, the majority of wild bird detections in Iowa also subsided by early May. We did, however, see isolated spillover into red fox kits (with spillover seen amongst mesocarnivores in other states), as well as Virginia opossum joeys (an observation unique to Iowa) through mid-May.

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Iowa



**Raptors were the group of birds in Iowa hardest hit by avian influenza this year.**

**Photo: Iowa DNR**

In other states, colonial nesting waterbirds such as cormorants, pelicans, terns, and gulls, have been impacted by highly pathogenic avian influenza in large numbers, including a breeding colony of American white pelicans spanning the Iowa-Illinois border in Pool 13 of the Mississippi River. A mass mortality event involving double-crested cormorants in the same pool has a plausible, but as of yet unverified, link.

Please note that as the Iowa DNR continues to monitor for this disease, we should anticipate a potential increase in disease transmission and resulting morbidity/mortality associated with the high-stress period surrounding migration. We urge you to report bird sickness and death events, especially those involving more than 5 individuals or those showing neurologic signs such as head nodding, circling, or body tremors. Limit contact with affected individuals, and work with DNR field staff to collect specimens for disease testing.

For more information please visit:

- [Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership Event Reporting System \(WHISPers\):](#)  
[Search event diagnosis “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(AI virus H5N1\): <https://whispers.usgs.gov/home>](#)
- [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-wild-birds>](#)
- [2022 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpai-commercial-backyard-flocks>](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Avian Influenza Current Situation Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-flu-summary.htm>](#)
- [Information for People Exposed to Birds Infected with Avian Influenza Viruses: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/infected-birds-exposure.htm>](#)
- [Recommendations for Worker Protection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) to Reduce Exposure to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A H5 Viruses: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/worker-protection-ppe.htm>](#)

**Anna Buckardt Thomas** is an Avian Ecologist with the Iowa DNR.

**Dr. Rachel Ruden** is the Iowa DNR State Wildlife Veterinarian

## Highlights from the Iowa TWS Winter Meeting March 2-3, 2022

The theme for the 2022 Iowa TWS Winter Meeting was Diversity. Topics presented on day one included effects of neonicotinoid exposure in both deer and pheasants, changes in prairie restoration practices, and public outreach efforts about chronic wasting disease in deer. The evening's keynote address: *Realizing a more perfect practice: Examining the barriers and opportunities to broaden engagement in wildlife stewardship*, was given by Dr. Adam Janke of ISU.

Talks on day two included discussion of new disease risks for wild turkeys, detection factors in surveys of pheasants and quail, GPS tracking of shorebirds, and plant growth in response to water level management. A panel discussion of Women in Conservation was also held.



The chapter was very pleased to award Al Farris our Hall of Fame award for his long career serving the people and wildlife at the Iowa DNR. Thank you Al, for all your accomplishments for Iowa's wildlife!



The Iowa chapter was happy to award Richard Bishop a Hall to Fame award at this year's banquet. Dick served as the Wildlife Bureau chief at the Iowa DNR for many years and helped usher in a lot of important programs for wildlife. Thank you, Dick, for all your contributions to Iowa!

Congratulations to Susanne Hickey, recognized for her incredible conservation work in the Loess Hills of Iowa with a Conservation award of merit. Thank you for all your work, Susanne!



## Minutes of the Iowa TWS Business Meeting March 2, 2022

**Call to Order** (Matt Dollison) at 4:07 P.M.  
60 People in Attendance

**Welcome** (Matt Dollison)

**Minutes** (Sarah Nizzi) Fall workshop meeting minutes were sent out to the membership via email; no comments

Motion to approve minutes by Dusten Paulus 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Baumgarten, motion approved

**Treasurer's Report** (Sarah Nizzi) Balance forward from previous report \$8,344.60, total income \$8,496.59, total expenses \$3,747.10, current balance as of February 27<sup>th</sup> is \$13,094.09. We had more expenses than normal years because of Iowa hosting the 82<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Many of the winter meeting expenses have not yet been charged, such as venue, meals, etc.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Drew DiAllesandro 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephanie Shepherd, motion approved

### Committee Reports

**Audit Committee** (Travis Russel) Travis Russel not present, an audit will take place in 2022  
**Awards Committee** (Stephanie Shepherd) Need new committee chair! Those interested should contact Stephanie Shepherd  
**Conservation Review** (Katy Reeder) Not Present

**Education and Information** (Pete Eyheralde) Winter newsletter was distributed, call for newsletter article submissions  
**Membership** (Ryan Kurtz) No Report  
**Resolutions and Public Statements** (Brian Sauer) No Report  
**Nominations and Elections** (Nathan Schmitz) Drew DiAllesandro was voted in as President-Elect and Dan Kaminski was voted in as Member-at-Large

### Old Business

TWS Board Handbook – goal for 2022 is to complete board handbook. The handbook will outline board duties and streamline processes.

### New Business

Partnered moth identification workshop with Iowa DNR, Linn CCB, Xerces, and TWS; \$300.00 donation request to keep registration cost low and reimburse speakers (Stephanie Shepherd) Motion to approve \$300.00 donation request by Mark Leoschke 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Marks, motion approved

REAP Alliance (Karen Kinhead) – No current updates on REAP Alliance, REAP has not requested funds but a motion was made to continue supporting if requested at \$150.00 Motion to approve \$150.00 donation by Adam Janke 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dusten Paulus, motion approved

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## Minutes of the Iowa TWS Business Meeting March 2, 2022

ICA Update (Todd Bogenschutz) – SF581 Deer population bill, special projects to be paid out of the trust fund, SB3212 ICA eligible for senate debate calendar, no movement currently; IWILL was not funded; ICA has not requested annual contribution yet  
Motion to approve \$2,500.00 contribution to ICA if requested by Nick Baumgarten 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clint Maddix, motion approved

### Announcements

Iowa Prairie Network meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> at Drake University <https://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/2022wintermeeting>

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar: Breaking Dormancy June 3 – 5th <https://www.loesshillspiraieseminar.com/>

North American Prairie Conference July 24 – 28<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln, Nebraska (more details to come)

Save the Date: “Shining a Light on Moth Identification” Workshop August 11 - 12th (more details to come)

### Adjourn

Move to adjourn - A motion was made by Jeff Feisel 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Bogenschutz  
Meeting adjourned at 4:27 P.M.

## Iowa Pheasant Population Survey Begins August 1



Iowa pheasant hunters had an excellent season last year, harvesting the most roosters since 2008, and many are looking forward to what 2022 has in store. That fall forecast will be based on the Iowa DNR's annual roadside pheasant counts, that begins Aug. 1.

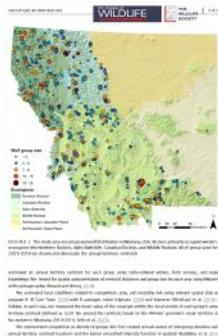
The statewide survey is conducted by Iowa DNR staff between Aug. 1-15, who drive 218, 30-mile routes on gravel roads at dawn on mornings with heavy dew. Hen pheasants will move their broods to the edge of the gravel road to dry off before they begin feeding, which makes them easier to count.

Last year, South-central Iowa had an average count of 6 pheasants per route, The question is, if the counts in the counties in the northern third of the state can go higher, where we had good numbers and good hunting. We are dry over a lot of the state and the conditions for the survey are important as the accuracy of the counts depend on the dew conditions when the routes are run.

In June the DNR issued its annual prediction for the roadside counts, which uses a weather model based on the snowfall, rainfall and temperatures from the past winter and spring. The model provides a best guess at what the counts might look like, and it is predicting counts as good to better numbers than last year. And that is good news for hunters as they bagged an estimated 375,000 roosters in 2021.

But the best indicator for the fall season is the August roadside survey that counts actual pheasants seen along more than 6,000 miles of rural, gravel roads. The August roadside survey has been conducted over the same routes since 1962. In addition to pheasants and quail, the survey collects data on partridge, cottontails and jackrabbits. Results will be posted online at [www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey](http://www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey) in early September. Iowa's pheasant season begins Oct. 29.

## Increases in digital readership spawn a new contemporary look for TWS Journals



You may have noticed a few changes to the appearance of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. After more than a decade without a change in design, TWS Journals have received an updated look. This new contemporary design is intended to improve digital readability of TWS publications while also implementing new industry standards, like eLocators.

One of the most noticeable changes is a switch to a single column format. Over the past several years, TWS has seen a dramatic shift in how our journal content is consumed by members and beyond. In 2021, TWS printed around 2,000 issues of JWM for approximately 200 print subscribers. By comparison, digital article downloads exceeded 425,000 in 2021. Over the past five years, digital downloads of TWS Journal articles have increased by over 85%.

With more people reading our publications on computer screens, tablets, or cell phones, a switch to single column means larger text and less scrolling up and down. We're certainly excited about this forward-looking layout and hope you too enjoy the new design. For a timeline of changes to TWS Journals dating back to 1937 and some additional discussion on the new journal design, check out this [editorial](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22063) (https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22063) from the editors of all three TWS Journals.

**Wondering what your fellow wildlifera are reading?** The table below includes the top 10 downloaded papers in 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member

benefit, simply log into [Your Membership](https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin) (https://wildlife.secure.force.com/customlogin) and go to the "Publications" tab.

### Top 10 most downloaded papers in 2021

[Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1057) (open access) --https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1057

[Climate change effects on deer and moose in the Midwest](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21649) (open access) --https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21649

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[Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21844) (open access) -- https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.21844

[Sage-Grouse Population Dynamics are Adversely Affected by Overabundant Feral Horses](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22089) (open access) -- https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22089

[Dynamics, Persistence, and Genetic Management of the Endangered Florida Panther Population](https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1041) (open access) -- https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wmon.1041

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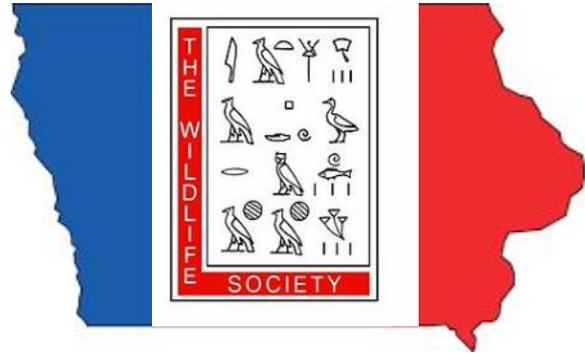
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As a final note, TWS would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the associate editors and reviewers who contributed to the success of TWS Journals in 2021. Without your efforts, the quality of our journals could not be sustained. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

- **Grassland Restoration Network Workshop**  
August 16-17 2022 Chicago IL  
<https://grasslandrestorationnetwork.org>
- **Iowa DNR Mussel Blitz 2022**  
Aug 16 Skunk River, Henry County IA  
Aug 17 Cedar River, Linn County IA  
Aug 18 Lytles Creek, Dubuque County IA  
Info: [scott.gritters@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:scott.gritters@dnr.iowa.gov)
- **Great Plains Fire Summit**  
August 23-25, 2022 North Platte, NE  
<https://gpfirescience.org/event/3rd-great-plains-fire-summit/>
- **Central Plains Society of Mammalogists**  
October 7 - 8 2022 Ozarks Education Center, MO  
[www.centralplainsmammalogists.org](http://www.centralplainsmammalogists.org)
- **Iowa Association of Naturalists Fall Workshop**  
November 2– 4 2022, Muscatine County, IA  
[www.iowanaturalists.org](http://www.iowanaturalists.org)
- **National TWS Conference**  
November 6–10 2022 Spokane, WA  
<https://twconference.org>



**Iowa Chapter of  
The Wildlife Society  
Fall Workshop  
“Bats of Iowa”  
8-9 September 2022  
Pella, Iowa**

**2022 Iowa Chapter The Wildlife  
Society Committee Chairs**

Audit: Travis Russell  
Awards: Stephanie Shepard  
Conservation Review: Katy Reeder  
Education and Information: Pete Eyheralde  
Membership: Ryan Kurtz  
Resolutions and Public Statements: Brain Sauer  
Nominations and Elections: Matt Dollison

Pete Eyheralde  
Newsletter Editor  
([eyheraldep@wmpenn.edu](mailto:eyheraldep@wmpenn.edu))

**2022 Iowa Chapter The Wildlife  
Society Executive Committee**

President: Nathan Schmitz  
President Elect: Andrew DiAllesandro  
Past President: Matt Dollison  
Secretary-Treasurer: Sarah Nizzi  
Member at Large: Dan Kaminski