

The Iowa Wildlifer

Volume 26, Issue I

January, 2009

The Newsletter of Iowa's Wildlife Professionals

Winter Meeting Planned *From the desk of Mike Griffin*

Points of Interest:

- Winter Meeting
- Senator Mary Lundby
- Ernest Obrholtzer
- TWS election
- Wildlife Diversity Support Certificate

Chapter Officers

President:
Willie Suchy
President Elect:
Mike Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer:
Doug Chafa
Member at Large:
Bill Bunger

Contents:

Winter meeting	1
National TWS Conf.	2
Senator Mary Lundby	3
Ernest Oberholtzer	4
Candidate bios & ballot	6
Tentative agenda	7
Lead position statement	8
Letter to Carol Browner	10
Nongame Support Certificate	11
Teaming with Wildlife	12
Membership	13

Greetings Wildlife Professionals!

As you all know in your everyday work, things are always busy. It used to seem that we had time to do more things. Now it seems as if we have no time to do the things we all have to accomplish in our everyday life, let alone the things we want to do with our spare time.

We are going to have our winter meeting at Ames this year on January 27-28. More info in the news letter. It will be a joint meeting with AFS and will cover Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources. As we all know this will be a great milestone for the Natural Resources of Iowa. With that theme we have worked out a program that highlights the good things we have done cooperatively for Water Quality, Fish, and Wildlife. We will also debate the current issue's that have arisen on effects of lead (PB) on fish and wildlife. The national TWS has a position paper out now for [comments at http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/Draft_on%20Lead_Ammo_and_Tackle.pdf](http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/Draft_on%20Lead_Ammo_and_Tackle.pdf)

The Director of the DNR has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the luncheon at 11:30am on January 27 to bring this all together for us.

With many things on all our plates, I recommend you make your reservation to attend this great meeting of our Natural Resource professionals. With budget cuts and a down turn in the Economy don't let yourselves think that these professional societies are something we should cut back on. We all need to maintain our professional affiliations during this time.

I hope all of you have had a chance to enjoy the fruits of our jobs this fall in anyway you liked. Our passion for the resource is the reason we have such a high regard for the resource that we hold dear.

See you at the Winter Meeting

Mike Griffin



© Kip Ladage

If members would like to see more of Kip's images go to <http://www.butler-bremer.com/web/kladage>

This 50 caliber **Knight Rifle** Muzzle-loader will be raffled at winter TWS meeting. **Please** consider a \$5 raffle ticket at registration table to bolster critical funding for TWS account.



Your submissions make for a more interesting newsletter. Electronic submissions in WORD format are desired. Contact Pat.Schlarbaum@DNR.Iowa.gov if you need information about submitting a bit of news for the next newsletter.

___ **The 16th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society will be held in Monterey, California September 20-24, 2009.** Information can be found at

http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=92

Future annual conference locations include Snowbird, Utah September 19-23, 2010 and Pittsburg, PA September 24-28, 2011. The conference should return to a Midwest location in 2013. There are a variety of reasons to attend an annual conference including, learning a new technique at a workshop, networking with colleagues from around the country, meeting potential students or summer employees, and learning about management impacts through contributed or invited presentations and posters to name just a few.

By **Karen Kinkead**, Multi-species Inventory and Monitoring Biologist with DNR Wildlife Diversity Program



What do peregrine falcons, regal fritillary butterflies, spadefoot toads, and badgers have in common? They are all wildlife species that benefit from contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Fund tax check-off (aka Chickadee Check-off) on line 58 of Iowa state tax form 1040.

Research and habitat management for game species such as deer, turkeys, waterfowl and pheasants are funded through license fees and habitat stamps. Iowa's non-game wildlife relies mainly on the generosity of Iowans through the check-off. Funds from the Fish and Wildlife check-off go to a variety of activities undertaken by the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program. The Wildlife Diversity Program is in charge of the 80 percent of Iowa's wildlife that is not hunted, fished or trapped - that is more than 500 species.

Check-off funds are used to help host public events in local communities such as Bald Eagle Appreciation Days, Pelican Fest, and Hawk Watch. They are used to fund research on Iowa's most imperiled wildlife such as red-shouldered hawks and ornate box turtles and to restore to Iowa long-gone species such as trumpeter swans, peregrine falcons and ospreys.

Contributions are also used to develop and distribute several educational publications on Iowa's diverse wildlife and to guide the management of public and private lands for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Investing in the future of Iowa's non-game wildlife is as easy as checking a box on your state tax form. Every cent of each donation is put to work for Iowa's non-game wildlife and the contribution is tax-deductible.

Please consider contributing to the Fish/Wildlife Fund - it is one of most hassle-free ways to make a difference for wildlife. The check-offs are on line 58 of the state tax form. For more information, contact the Wildlife Diversity Program at 515-432-2823.

Nomination of Senator Mary Lundby for the Iowa Wildlife Society Hall of Fame Award

Throughout her distinguished, lifelong public service career, Senator Mary Lundby has provided a strong voice for wildlife-related issues. During her twenty-one years as an Iowa legislator, her genuine nature and veracity of commitment have offered an impressive list of environmental contributions. Notably they include: Speaker on Environment at the Midwest Republican Leadership conference in 1989, Conservationist of the Year by Iowa Wildlife Federation in 1995, and Legislator of the Year by Iowa Sierra Club in 2002. In late 1990s she distinguished herself by supporting the Teaming with Wildlife initiative in Iowa to secure stable, sustainable funding for wildlife.

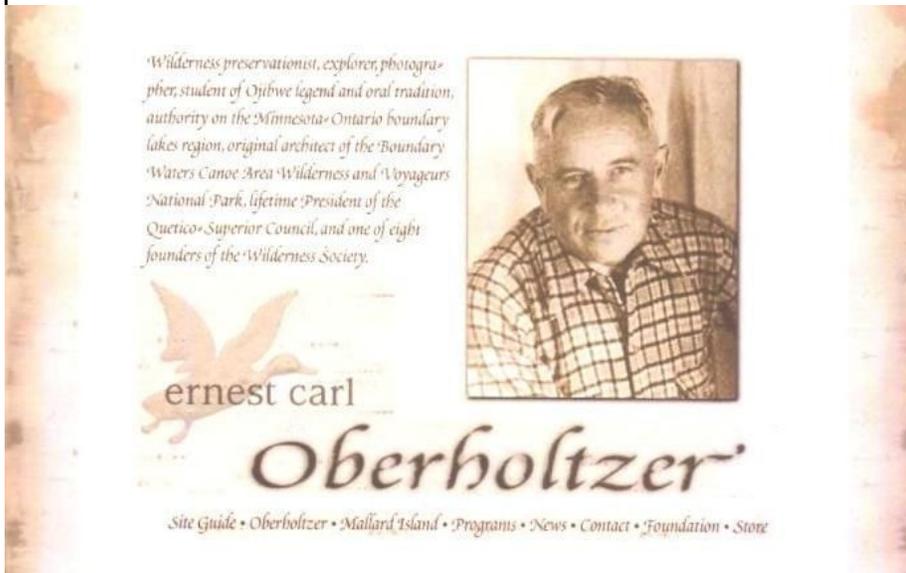
These accomplishments alone would provide ample justification to recognize Senator Lundby for all her environmental efforts and strong advocacy for natural resources. We all realize funding for conservation programs does not always receive priority consideration. They are lean from excesses and require considerable partnering to provide wildlife opportunities for future generations. In 2004, Senator Lundby provided tremendous leadership in shepherding a stable funding source for wildlife diversity programs through the Iowa legislature. A source of dollar-for-dollar matching funds for available federal dollars was desperately needed. Through inaction, literally hundreds of thousands of federal dollars could be lost to the state and our environment. A bill was crafted by Senator Lundby to provide necessary matching funds from sales of our Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) license plate. When the bill stymied in the Transportation Committee, Senator Lundby's tenacity was tested, but she was not deterred. Her commitment to grow stable funding for all wildlife was exemplary. Ultimately she succeeded, and the quality of all Iowans' lives will be forever enhanced by her efforts. Also, a valuable political lesson can be shared: one person and one vote can make a difference. In this instance one person, Senator Lundby, provided far-reaching impacts that will benefit all wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts into the 21st century.

The DNR Wildlife Diversity Program staff feels Senator Mary Lundby is very deserving of the Iowa Wildlife Society Hall of Fame designation. We hope this award can convey our soulful admiration and heartfelt appreciation for Senator Lundby's visions and contributions to our environment. We feel The Iowa Wildlife Society Hall of Fame Award is an appropriate opportunity for Society members to recognize citizens with immense conservation stature. The award is designed to recognize conservation leaders like Senator Mary Lundby.

GIVE THE GIFT TO LAST A LIFETIME... RECONNECT IOWA CHILDREN WITH NATURE

The benefits to children of time spent outdoors are endless. Spending time in natural settings is beneficial for physical and mental health, improving behavior, and faster learning. What fundamental experiences do you believe children in Iowa should have in order to develop a healthy, active lifestyle? Cast your vote today - www.iowadnr.gov/education/index.html or http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nYU56AJw5MLfcHiDiDzI3w_3d_3d

Results obtained from the survey will be used to guide creation of an "Iowa Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights." This document will list the activities that Iowans recognize as invaluable experiences for our young people to have while growing up, along with a mission statement and goals for its use. If you don't see an activity listed that you would like to see included, please add your item under "other." We invite Iowans of *all ages* to cast their vote. Please share with your Iowa colleagues, family and friends.



Ernest Oberholtzer (February 6, 1884 – June 6, 1977) was an [American explorer](#), [author](#) and [conservationist](#). Nicknamed "Ober", he was born and raised in [Davenport, Iowa](#), but he lived most of his adult life in [Minnesota](#). Oberholtzer attended [Harvard University](#) and received a bachelor of arts degree, but left after one year of graduate study in landscape architecture. He made his first trip to the Minnesota-Ontario border lakes in 1906. In 1909 he took his first extended canoe voyage through the border lakes and the Rainy Lake watershed, traveling 3,000 miles that summer. During the period from 1908 to 1915, Oberholtzer

wrote a number of articles and short stories, some under the name Ernest Carliowa. Many of the stories and articles were based on his canoe trip experiences. In 1913, Oberholtzer moved to [Rainy Lake](#) and purchased Mallard Island in 1922; the tiny island would be his home for more than fifty years. After plans were announced by business mogul [Edward Backus](#) to construct a series of dams to harness the Rainy Lake watershed for power generation, Oberholtzer spoke in opposition at a hearing of the [International Joint Commission](#) held at [International Falls](#) in September 1925. As a result of meetings with [Minneapolis](#) businessmen who were similarly opposed to industrialization of the area, the Quetico-Superior Council was formed in 1928; Oberholtzer served as its first president. Oberholtzer's activities for the council included lobbying [United States Congress](#) and the Minnesota legislature, testifying before the International Joint Commission and building public support for the council's program. In 1934 President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) created the President's Quetico-Superior Committee to advise and coordinate government activity concerning the Quetico-Superior area. Oberholtzer was its first chairman, and served as a member until 1968. Oberholtzer was one of the eight founding members of [The Wilderness Society](#) and served on its executive council from 1937 until 1967. His addition to The Wilderness Society lent national stature for the group.^[1] In addition to his wilderness campaigning, he spoke fluent [Ojibwe](#) and was a fervent student of their culture. He never married and died in 1977 after a long period of ill health. Oberholtzer is recognized today as a leading advocate for the preservation of the Quetico-Superior lake area^[2] as well as an advocate of the Native American culture in that region.

TEEN RESTORES GRAVE OF ENVIRONMENTALIST

A Davenport teenager has completed restoration of the gravesite of environmentalist **Ernest Oberholtzer**, and he has further plans to recognize the pioneer wilderness preservationist and Davenport native. **William Schwener**, 13, an eighth-grader at Wood Intermediate School, took on the project as part of the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouting. His work brings renewed attention to Oberholtzer, largely forgotten locally but credited with saving Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the adjacent Quetico Provincial Park in Canada from industrial development during the 1920s. Oberholtzer also was an early Scoutmaster in Davenport. For several weeks, William led fellow Scouts of Troop 670, Scout leaders and parents in a massive effort to restore the gravesite at Oakdale Memorial Gardens in Davenport. Oberholtzer died in 1977 at age 93.

Anyone that has canoed the Boundary Waters can thank Ernest Oberholtzer's vision and tenacity to implement wise stewardship and conservation practices upon the land. And it is great that William Schwener is providing care of Mr. Oberholtzer's gravesite, back here in Iowa.

Secretary/ Treasurer:

Julie A Blanchong

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University. My background is in wildlife disease and wildlife genetics. I am a member of the Wildlife Society and its Wildlife Diseases working group. I am running for secretary because I am fairly new to Iowa and look at this as an opportunity to become more involved with wildlife issues affecting Iowa and get to know more wildlife biologists in the state.

Stephanie Shepherd

I have been a member of Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program team since December of 2005. I have been more involved with TWS in the past in other states and would very much like to get more involved with this chapter. I'd be happy to serve as secretary/treasurer.

Members at Large:

Todd Gosselink

I have been a TWS member since I began my wildlife career in graduate school in 1997. I currently serve as a Forest Wildlife Research Biologist with the IDNR in Chariton, and have been in this position since 2001. My responsibilities with this position include wild turkey and general forest wildlife management recommendations and surveys. Recently, I have been conducting bobcat research in conjunction with ISU in Iowa. I would like to serve the Iowa Chapter of TWS to help the Chapter's objectives in advancing the science and art of wildlife management. I feel it is important for wildlife scientists and biologists from across the state to be active members in TWS to promote science based wildlife management in Iowa.

Sue Fairbanks

Before coming to Iowa State, I served on the Executive Board of the Nebraska Chapter of TWS for several years. That chapter has a very strong professional-student relationship, and I would like to help facilitate greater involvement of students (graduate and undergraduate) in the Iowa Chapter. My experience with the Nebraska Chapter also gives me insight and a background to address other issues that confront a state TWS chapter.

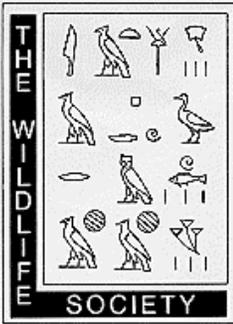
President-elect:

Jim Coffey

Current Position: Forest Wildlife Research Technician for the Iowa DNR I first joined the Wildlife Society 1986 as part of the ISU student chapter. The wildlife society should act as a voice for wildlife professionals. This is our arena to openly discuss policies and future impacts on our wildlife resources.

Jeff Glaw

I am currently the wildlife management biologist for the Maquoketa Wildlife Unit. I have been involved with TWS since 1999. I feel this position would allow me to become more involved in the issues facing us as wildlife professionals in Iowa. With the natural disasters of 2008 and subsequent impacts to Iowa's natural resources, we need to be at the fore-front at making decisions to guide us in the years ahead. I believe involvement in TWS provides each and every one of us with the opportunity to bring science based resource mgt to Iowa.



Ballot for Iowa TWS

Member At Large:

Todd Gosselink

Sue Fairbanks

Secretary / Treasurer:

Julie Blanchong

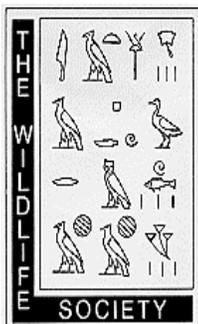
Stephanie Shepherd

President Elect:

Jim Coffey

Jeff Glaw

**Ballots will be available at the meeting registration table or mail to Doug Chafa,
Missouri River Unit, 22859 Filbert Ave. Onawa, IA 51040**



Tentative!!

Agenda for TWS and AFS Meeting January 27—28 Quality Inn, Ames, IA

- 10:00—11:00 Registration
- 11:00 - 11:20 Sustainable Funding , Doug Harr
- 11:30—12:45 Luncheon Welcome with Director Richard Leopold and recognizing Senator Mary Lundby with TWS Hall of Fame Award
- 1:00 - 1:20 Lake restorations
- 1:20—1:40 Management successes for fisheries and wildlife
- 1:40—2:00 Falcon restoration
- 2:00—2:20 Lead Position Statement debate
- 2:20—2:40 Break
- 2:40—3:40 Management successes for wildlife and fisheries
- 3:40—5:00 TWS meeting
- January 28
- 8:00 – 10:00 ISU Research presentations
- 10:00 – 10:20 Break
- 10:20 – 12:00 ISU Research presentations
- 12:00 Adjourn (lunch on your own)

Your submissions make for a more interesting newsletter.

Electronic submissions in WORD format are desired. Contact Pat Schlarbaum if you need information about submitting a bit of news for the next newsletter. Pat.Schlarbaum@dnr.Iowa.gov, 1436 255th Street, Boone, IA 50036

Draft Position Statement

In accordance with TWS policy, The Wildlife Society Council seeks member review and comment on the following draft position statement, **Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle**, prior to revising and finalizing it. Comments must be received by **15 February** to be considered in a final position statement. Please send comments to: **Laura Bies, Assoc. Director of Government Affairs, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144, or via email to laura@wildlife.org.**

Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

Lead is a naturally occurring element in the environment, although in biological systems it has no functional or beneficial role and at very low levels of exposure can be toxic. Lead is banned in gasoline and paint because of its effects on animal and human health. Lead at toxic levels damages nervous systems, causing paralysis and eventually death; at lower levels it is known to cause a variety of sublethal effects. Its use in ammunition and fishing tackle dates back hundreds and thousands of years, respectively. Realization of the hazards of lead ammunition to waterfowl and upland game birds such as pheasants can be traced to the late 1870s, while the hazards of lead fishing sinkers to birds became apparent in the 1970s with lead poisoning of swans in the United Kingdom (UK). In the 1980s, the UK and some jurisdictions within the United States and Canada began placing restrictions on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle.

Metallic lead can remain relatively stable and intact for decades or centuries. However, under certain environmental conditions (e.g., acidic or basic water or soil) lead from such items can be physiological, and behavioral effects in some species of invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Lead in soil, adsorbed or incorporated into food items, and fragments left in carcasses or deposited at shooting ranges can be consumed by wildlife and result in elevated lead concentrations in birds and small mammals, with similar effects. Ingestion by reptiles, birds, and mammals of spent ammunition and lost fishing tackle has also been documented and can cause a range of negative effects in individuals, potentially leading to population-level consequences in some species (e.g., waterfowl, eagles, condors, doves).

From a public health perspective, relatively low doses of lead can lead to a variety of human health problems, particularly in children. When lead that is imbedded in game meat becomes exposed to acid in the human stomach, lead is absorbed into the system; this process is exacerbated when the meat is prepared with an acidic sauce using wine, vinegar or lemon. Even if a lead pellet or bullet completely passes through an animal, a small amount of lead may be left behind and can be absorbed by a person consuming the meat.

Lead poisoning related to spent ammunition and lost fishing tackle has been extensively studied in avian species, and at least two studies indicate that the ban on the use of lead ammunition for hunting waterfowl and coots in North America has been successful in reducing lead exposure in waterfowl. Nonetheless, other species such as upland game birds (e.g., doves, quail) and scavengers (e.g., vultures, eagles) have been documented to be exposed, and in some instances populations, such as the California condor, may be at risk. Despite the ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting, current data for raptor and avian scavenger species indicate increases in lead exposure in these species. Accordingly, 24 states (as of 2008) have instituted restrictions on the use of lead ammunition to minimize effects to upland game birds and eagles, and other species.

The hazard of ingested lead sinkers and fishing tackle is well documented in swans and loons, and restrictions on the same or use of lead weights have been instituted in the UK, Canada, several other countries, and 5 states in the United States (as of 2008) in order to minimize effects on these and other potentially vulnerable species. There are only limited data on the adverse effects of lead ingestion at shooting ranges on organisms, and reproductive and mortality rates at these sites have not been adequately investigated.

There has been an extensive effort in the development, efficacy testing, and regulation of alternatives to lead-based ammunition for hunting waterfowl and waterbirds. Nontoxic alternatives have been approved and currently are available in North America and elsewhere. Approved nontoxic ammunition can be used for the successful hunting of game. Various brands can be used safely in all gauges of shotguns and nontoxic rifle bullets have been developed for hunting large game species. However, the widespread availability of this shotgun and rifle ammunition depends on assured markets provided by extensive regulation and enforcement. Steel shot can be used in all clay target sports and already is required by some shooting facilities. Dozens of substitutes for lead fishing tackle have entered the marketplace in recent years. A few, but not all (e.g., zinc, brass), alternative metals in fishing tackle have been deemed safe if ingested by waterfowl and some other birds and mammals.

The policy of The Wildlife Society, in regard to lead in ammunition and fishing tackle is to:

1. Recognize that lead has been known for centuries to be a broad-spectrum toxicant to humans and wildlife.
2. Advocate the replacement of lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle use and production with nonlead products, with an ultimate goal of complete replacement.
3. Recognize that long-term elimination of lead from outdoor recreational activities will require collaboration among affected stakeholders, a series of incremental regulations, and explicit and targeted educational strategies.
4. Urge engineers, economists, and social scientists to conduct studies on reducing the barriers to nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle development and use, and encourage additional research generating toxicological and environmental chemistry data; monitoring and modeling of exposure and effects; and predicting consequences of exposure and long-term population-level effects.
5. Encourage enhanced educational efforts leading to greater public awareness and understanding of the consequences of lead exposure in wildlife species and emphasize the realized gains in wildlife and environmental quality from use of lead-free ammunition.

UPDATE: SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Following much effort by the Sustainable Funding Committee (SFC) last year, the legislature authorized continued work by an Interim Committee (IC) in 2007. The IC consists of five conservation-oriented legislators from each party, selected to make more detailed recommendation to the General Assembly in 2008. Assisted by the SFC, the new IC recently voted to approve some very positive recommendations. These include:

1. Passing a "Charitable Conservation Contribution Income Tax Credit" for Iowa taxpayers donating land for conservation purposes, equal to 50% of the land's fair market value (a bill for this carries over from the 2007 session).
2. Recommending that legislation is needed for \$150 million (a "conservative" figure) in new and additional funding for natural resources.
3. Recommending reauthorization of the SFC for two more years, with addition of the Iowa Rivers Coalition and Iowa Land Construction organizations to broaden the SFC's scope, and to consider some travel reimbursements for the SFC volunteers.
4. Recommending a constitutionally protected trust fund for the new funding.

Recommending the source of funding to be a 3/8 of one cent sales tax, and putting the issue to a vote of Iowa's citizens for approval.

While these recommendations are extremely positive, it means that a lot of work remains to be done, especially in *marketing* the idea of a % of sales tax to all Iowans. Additionally, because of other legislative pressures in an election year, it is suspected that little action might actually be taken during the current legislative session. The Conservation Tax Credit stands a fair chance for passage, and there is optimism that full funding of REAP (at \$20 million) might also be possible this year.

When it comes time to start marketing the 3/8 of 1% sales tax, the help of *every* conservation organization in Iowa will be necessary, and the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society will be no exception. But with a good effort, it is looking brighter for the possibility of the "Missouri model" becoming reality in Iowa.

*--Doug Harr
SFC Support Staff*

Carol Browner
Incoming White House Coordinator for Energy and Climate, Obama Administration

To Ms. Carol Browner:

On behalf of the following conservation groups and our millions of members across the country, we want to thank President-Elect Obama for his campaign commitment to safeguard wildlife and natural resources from the impacts of global warming.

Natural resources are the backbone of public health and the American economy. Healthy natural systems provide clean water, clean air and protect communities from catastrophic weather-related disasters, ranging from hurricanes to floods to forest fires. Outdoor recreation, which is based on our nation's natural environment and includes hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, wildlife viewing, and other activities contributes a total of \$730 billion annually to the economy, supporting 6.5 million jobs (1 of every 20 jobs in the U.S.), and stimulates 8% of all consumer spending, according to The Outdoor Industry Foundation. The economic value of the natural environment is far higher when the vast range of ecosystem services is also included; conservative estimates tally these benefits at trillions of dollars annually. Given the grave threats posed by global warming, investing in our natural resources today will provide huge economic benefits for generations.

Safeguarding natural resources, oceans, wildlife populations and the people that rely on these resources is also a moral issue. The United States has an historic opportunity to help sustain today's unsurpassed natural legacy for our children and grandchildren, but we will need to invest in our natural resources if they are to survive a changing climate.

We applaud the following commitment President-Elect Obama made during the campaign in his energy plan regarding how a cap-and-trade program should be implemented:

"A small portion of the receipts generated by auctioning allowances will be used... to provide new funding to state and federal land and wildlife managers to restore habitat, create wildlife migration corridors, and assist fish and wildlife to adapt to the effects of a warming climate."

We further applaud the reiteration of this position in President-Elect Obama's *Plan to Support the Rights and Traditions of Sportsmen*.

We look forward to working with you, the full Obama Administration and the incoming Congress to accomplish our shared goal of protecting wildlife and natural resources from the impacts of global warming.

Sincerely,

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
American Rivers
Defenders of Wildlife
Land Trust Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy
Oceana
Pheasants Forever
Sierra Club
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife Management Institute
World Wildlife Fund



[Get a 2009 Non-game Wildlife Support Certificate today](#)

A trio of **Bonaparte's Gulls**, featured wildlife species in DNR's 2009 Nongame Support Certificate, were photographed by Kip Ladage, of Tripoli, Iowa. This is the first time one of Kip's outstanding wildlife images has been selected for a Nongame Certificate.

Since issuing the first support certificate back in 1979, The Wildlife Diversity Program has featured species that nest or reside in Iowa for a majority of their lives. Choosing Bonaparte's Gull this year breaks with tradition because the species is observed in Iowa only during spring and fall migration. This gull nests primarily along rivers and lakes across the boreal forest and subarctic regions of Canada and Alaska, wintering mostly along the U.S. Gulf coast and eastern seaboard. But the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan of 2006 directs the state to conserve habitat for *all* wildlife, both resident and migratory species, and Bonaparte's Gulls are seen with increasing frequency as they stop to feed and rest on migration through Iowa.

Bonaparte's Gulls belong to a group of distinctively hooded gulls that include another more familiar Iowa migrant, the Franklin's Gull. That species is often seen in flocks following farmers' field work in the spring. It is distinguished in adult breeding plumage by a darker gray back (or "mantle"), red feet and bill, and a hood that extends about halfway down the back of the head. Adult breeding plumage Bonaparte's Gulls, as depicted in this year's Nongame Support Certificate, feature a lighter gray mantle, black bill, bright orange feet, and a hood that extends just slightly over the back of the head. The only other bird for which it can sometimes be mistaken is the larger and much rarer Black-headed Gull.

Bonaparte's Gulls might even be called "dainty" in comparison to most of Iowa's more-commonly seen gulls, floating lightly in the water and displaying a buoyant, graceful flight somewhat similar to that of terns. In Iowa, they are most often seen in migration on our large reservoir lakes, the large natural lakes of northern Iowa and on the Mississippi River.

By Doug Harr, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator

According to Dr. Jim Dinsmore in *Birds of Iowa*, Bonaparte's Gulls are a fairly common migrant that has become more frequent over the last 20 years, with more remaining into December and a few occurring in summer. This species winters coastally from New England and Washington south to northern South America, and sparingly on the southern parts of the Great Lakes in mild winters. It breeds from western Quebec across Canada to British Columbia and north to the Northwest Territories and Alaska.

Please consider having your favorite conservation business or organization in your area endorse this movement. Our list has grown to 226 supporters.

Statement of Endorsement



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

On behalf of the _____, I hereby endorse **Teaming with Wildlife**. Our group is delighted to join the National Coalition and support funding dedicated to fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and conservation education in every state. **Teaming with Wildlife** is our natural investment in a future teaming with wildlife!

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please Print:

Organization or Business

Signers Name: _____ Office Held: __

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: __

Email: _____ Website: _____

Would you like to add additional contacts to our lists?

Name/Title: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

How many members and/or employees does your organization/business represent? _____

If you are a company, what kind (i.e. retailer, manufacturer, etc.)? _____

If you are a state chapter should you be listed under the national organization? _____

Personal letters of support are appreciated and will be documented as testimony of the growing support for Teaming with Wildlife. Please mail with information about your group to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Diversity Program, Boone Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255th St. Boone, IA 50036. 515-432-2823x102 doug.harr@dnr.state.ia.us

For information on the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition and how you can help, please visit <http://www.teaming.com/>

Editor: Pat Schlarbaum
1436 255th Street
Boone, IA 50036

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY-IOWA CHAPTER

TWS CAP ORDER

Name: _____ Address: _____
_____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Cap Style: (check one) high profile _____ medium profile _____

Number of hats ordered @ \$15.00 each: _____

Make payment to: Iowa Chapter The Wildlife Society

Send order and payment to: Doug Chafa
1486 Quail Ave.
Sumner, IA 50674



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER JULY, 2009

Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Membership Application/Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Agency/Organization _____ Title _____

Telephone Number (Home) _____ (Work) _____

FAX _____ E-mail _____

Cost \$10.00/year New Member _____ Renewal _____

Make checks payable to: Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society
c/o Doug Chafa
1486 Quail Ave.
Sumner, IA 50674