

The Manitoba Chapter Wildlife Society Newsletter



Summer

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

June 2003

2003 Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education



Presidents Corner

I wish to thank the members of the Manitoba Chapter of TWS for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the president for the next year. It has been a real treat for me to meet the Chapter members at the various function this year. It has been particularly enjoyable seeing many of my former students who are now working professionally in the field of wildlife management. However, it is somewhat shocking to see just how much we have aged over the past 30 years!

The Chapter has been active with three scheduled events this year including its annual Delta-Get-Away in late February, a Research Series in March, and the AGM also in March. At the Delta-Get-Away we organized a series of six epidemiologists who presented information on the current status and spread of wildlife diseases and their impacts upon wildlife biologists. The presenters made all of us think differently about how we would deal with these diseases. For one, I know that I am now attempting to rid my cabin of *Peromyscus* and their dropping with more caution, and that I am going to pay much more attention

to small ticks during the deer season this year!

At the research speakers session held on March 7th we were treated to a diversity of useful wildlife topics including survey techniques, waterfowl management problems, assessment of the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture projects, potential agricultural and wetland carbon sinks, experimental pond manipulation of carp, and the declining numbers of hunters. In addition three graduate students from the Zoology Department and the Natural Resources Institute at U of Manitoba presented their research findings.

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At the March AGM the new Executive was announced. It includes Don Sexton (Past President), Alex Miller (President Elect), Jacey Scott (Secretary/Treasurer), Derek Kroeker (Student Representative), Garth Ball (Member-at-Large) and myself as President. From my experience as President Elect, last year, I realize that I am very lucky to have such a dedicated and competent Executive!

After the executive members were Rick Baydack provided the announced Chapter with a brief rundown on the upcoming TWS meeting in Calgary in 2004. This event will be co-hosted by the Alberta and Manitoba Chapters. Rick mentioned that there will be more than 100 papers submitted for presentation at the meeting, and that the Manitoba Chapter members will be asked to be involved on one or more of the review committees.

Candace Parks was awarded the 2003 Richard C. Goulden Memorial Student Bursary Award. Alex Miller, recipient of the 2002 award, made a presentation on her Piping Plover research. Shane Gabor, the keynote speaker, gave an outstanding lecture entitled "Canada's Water Crisis: Opportunity for Wildlife". After business meeting the winners of a Chapter photo contest were announced, followed by the winners of a silent auction. The AGM provided a full evening of information and comradery.

In the coming year the new Executive plans to continue the seminar series, mixers and Get-Aways, however, we believe it is important to make field activities a priority. We believe that strong interpersonal ties are made by members working together in the field rather than merely listening to

presentations. Therefore, the Executive is open to any suggestions about possible field activities. With that in mind, Marc Schuster, from CWS, is looking for persons interested in being involved in a woodcock survey; and Hiedi den Haan, from the University Field Station, is willing to teach persons to band song bird at Delta Marsh (see the notices in this Newsletter). If you have any suggestions for field activities please let us know and we will spread the word.

Your Executive plans to make this an exciting year of wildlife activities, we look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events. By the way, it is time to renew your membership - please sent your \$10 to Jacey Scott, Geography Department, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, R3T 2N2.

Best regards, Rick Riewe

Announcing a Contest for Design of a TWS Membership Poster

Winner to be Selected at TWS Conference, Burlington, VT, Sept. 6-10, 2003

Create a Poster that invites Membership in The Wildlife Society. Your poster should be designed for printing on a large format, high resolution printer/plotter. The winning poster(s) will be made available on TWS' website as a pdf file, and downloaded and printed as needed by TWS units for use at international, section and chapter meetings to recruit new members.

Contest Guidelines

Entries should promote the benefits of membership in The Wildlife Society. TWS membership offers many benefits. The list below will get you started. Please use as many as will fit your design, giving special attention to the nine items marked with an asterisk (*). Creativity is encouraged.

- Join The Wildlife Society an international organization of wildlife professionals and students dedicated to Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education*
- Take advantage of Continuing Education and Networking opportunities offered by TWS' annual conference, as well as section, chapter, and working group meetings*
- Bring wildlife science to bear on critical Wildlife Policy Issues*
- Receive six issues of The Wildlifer newsletter to keep up with professional news*
- Subscribe to the Wildlife Society Bulletin

 a quarterly magazine covering all aspects of wildlife conservation and management*
- Subscribe to The Journal of Wildlife Management & Wildlife Monographs the definitive source of wildlife science*
- Advance your skills by participating in special topic Working Groups*
- Receive recognition of your professional credentials by becoming an Associate or Certified Wildlife Biologist*
- Expand your Professional Network and Access to Jobs and Graduate Student Positions by subscribing to TWS' electronic discussion group
- Advance Science-Based Wildlife

Management

- Present your Work to a large audience of your peers at TWS' Annual Conference
- Publish Your Work in the Bulletin or Journal
- Develop Leadership Skills by serving as a leader of one of our many sections, chapters, and working groups
- Give Service to your Profession by serving on a committee
- Take advantage of Membership Discounts on books and conference registration
- For a Membership Application, please go to www.wildlife.org*

Entries should be attractive, full color, include photos or graphics, and display the TWS logo. Posters should be 24" x 36" (horizontal or vertical).

Posters should be designed for printing on a large format, high resolution printer/plotter. The winning poster(s) will be made available on TWS' website as a pdf file, and downloaded and printed as needed by TWS units for use at international, section and chapter meetings to recruit new members.

Entries should be submitted as both a hard copy and cd-rom (pdf file format preferred, but also will accept jpeg, ppt, pm, wpd, and doc files) at the Burlington conference.

All contestants must send an email to catherine_hibbard@fws.gov by August 1 to inform organizers of your intent to participate so adequate display space may be made available. If you are unable to attend the conference, please contact catherine_hibbard@fws.gov for details on

how to make your submission by mail.

All TWS members are eligible to participate. Limit of one entry per person.

Conference participants will select the winning poster from among qualified entries

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1st \$500 TWS gift certificate
- 2nd \$100 TWS gift certificate
- 3rd \$ 50 TWS gift certificate

Gift certificates are redeemable for TWS (national) books, merchandise, membership, registration fees, or other services (expire Dec. 31, 2005).

Winning entries may be modified by TWS to meet graphic and text standards. TWS reserves the right to unlimited use of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place posters, and use upon approval by the designer of any other poster submitted to the contest. The designer will be recognized on all posters used by TWS.

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Local Birding Projects Receive Funding - need your help!

Cory Lindgren

Spring is in the air and the wings and calls of returning migrant birds have been heard over the last several weeks across Manitoba. Many birds are setting up their breeding territories and will soon be on the nest. Bird conservation efforts have also begun across Manitoba led by a number of Important Bird Area (IBA) working groups. Through the **Important** Areas community Bird conservation fund - the Douglas Marsh, Kinosota Leifur, Whitewater Lake and the Netley Libau Marsh IBA working groups have all received funding to carry out bird conservation initiatives. Almost \$100,000 has been allocated to IBA groups across Canada for 2003 projects.

In the Douglas Marsh just east of Brandon, funding will help conserve and protect habitat for the Yellow Rail. Birders travel from all over the world to the Douglas Marsh in hopes of spotting this elusive marsh bird. The Alonsa Conservation District is leading efforts in the Kinosota Leifur IBA where funding will be directed towards Red-head Woodpecker conservation. The Whitewater Lake IBA working group will use their funding to ecotourism increase awareness and The Selkirk Bird Watchers and potential. Netley Libau Marsh Waterfowl Foundation also received funding to continue with their annual songbird, rail, and bittern surveys in the Netley Libau Marsh 2003. The Netley Marsh. Douglas Libau Marsh. Whitewater Lake are all recognized as globally significant Important Bird Areas.

The Canadian Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) was established as part of an international effort to identify and conserve sites important to all bird species worldwide. In Manitoba the IBA program is led by the Manitoba Naturalist Society, call Cory Lindgren, Manitoba IBA coordinator for more information.

Least Bittern Survey

The Manitoba Naturalists Society, Ducks Canada Unlimited and Manitoba Conservation will conduct a Least Bittern survey in 2003. Funding has been received through the World Wildlife Fund Canada Environment Canada Endangered and Fund to inventory Species Recovery southern Manitoba to find out where and how many Least Bitterns there are. The Least Bittern, Ixobrychus exilis (Gmelin), is listed by COSEWIC as Threatened. It is a very secretive waterbird and hence little information is available on its abundance. The smallest member of the heron family, the Least Bittern ranges between 11-14 inches in length, with a wingspan of about Anyone hearing or spotting a 17 inches. Least Bittern is asked to report any possible sightings by calling 467-3269. If any birders have seen any Least Bitterns over the past several years the locations of these sightings would also be very helpful to direct survey efforts.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes

The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike has returned once again to the West St Paul area just northwest of Winnipeg. The West St Paul area is the only known breeding area for the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike in western Canada. The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) is a grassland songbird that was listed as Endangered in Canada in 1991 and later listed as Endangered in Manitoba in 1998. A total of 15 Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes were

observed in 2002 with six pairs and a lone shrike on residential lots in the West St. Paul core area and an additional pair at the John Blumberg Golf Course to the west of Winnipeg. Any birders spotting Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes are asked to report sightings to the Manitoba Recovery Action Group at 945-5439 or 467-3269.

TWS Wildlife Policy Statement

Confinement of Wild Ungulates Within High Fences

Refer to the Technical Report on Confinement of Wild Ungulates within High Fences (#02-3) for the scientific rationale on which this position description is based.

Finalized March 2003

Demand for hunting and the sale of live wild ungulates (hoofed mammals) and their products has promoted the growth of an industry that raises captive native and exotic ungulates, as well as wild native ungulates, within managed properties. High (avg. 2.4 m) fences are used to control the movement of animals to improve population-level animal and habitat management, reduce immigration of non-managed animals, and as a deterrent to poaching. Biological issues relating to confined ungulates include behavioral effects on enclosed animals: diseases associated with confinement and shipping; genetic effects of confinement and transport from natural ranges; habitat effects; effects on non-target species; and effects on species and habitats outside of the fence. Ecological health within fenced habitats, however, may increase when improved effectiveness of population control

is combined with proper livestock and habitat management. Social issues related to confined ungulates include cultural and legal issues of public versus private ownership of wildlife resources, hunter ethics, public perception of hunting, commercialization and domestication of wild animals, and ecological stewardship.

The use of high fences to confine ungulates may have specific and legitimate uses in wildlife management and research, but it also carries the potential for significant adverse impacts. The policy of The Wildlife Society with respect to ungulate confinement is to:

- 1. Oppose further conversion of the public's native wildlife to private ownership.
- 2. Oppose high-fenced enclosures, regardless of size, if they exclude free-ranging native wildlife from critical seasonal habitats or migration routes.
- 3. Support regulations and enforcement to prevent escapes and facilitate recovery in the event of an escape.
- 4. Support state wildlife agencies as the primary regulatory authority over native North American ungulates, including those confined by high fences. State wildlife agencies should work cooperatively with other state and federal agricultural, wildlife, and health agencies as well as hunting groups, conservation organizations, private landowners and managers to prevent problems such as disease transmission and genetic exchange among native wildlife and exotic species.
- 5. Encourage anyone using a high fence to confine ungulates to thoroughly analyze and understand potential effects and

- commit to minimizing risks to native species. This requires a well-coordinated effort of state and federal agencies, hunting groups, conservation organizations, private landowners and managers.
- For all ungulates confined by high fences, encourage management at or below natural carrying capacity in a manner that prevents inbreeding, diseases, habitat degradation, and effects on non-target species.
- 7. Encourage authorized agencies to collaborate with interested parties on funding and development of systems for detecting and monitoring wildlife diseases within enclosed and free-ranging native and exotic ungulate populations.
- 8. Support a moratorium on the construction of high-fenced facilities and any shipment of live cervids until live animal diagnostic tests are available for detecting and monitoring important infectious diseases.
- 9. Oppose the use of funds generated from traditional sources (recreational licenses, tags, and other fees) for confined-ungulate inspections and regulatory programs.

CHAPTER NEWS

Delta-Get-Away

The annual Delta- Get-Away held at the University of Manitoba Field Station on the south shore of Lake Manitoba on the weekend of February 21 was once again a success. The weekend started out with an informal session which included igloo building on the Lake and a few beers in the lodge. Saturday was devoted to a series of outstanding lectures on critical wildlife by professional diseases presented epidemiologists. These lectures described the diseases and their impacts on wildlife and wildlife biologists. The following topics were covered:

- Lyme Disease, **Dr. Terry Galloway** Entomology, U. of Manitoba
- Hanta Virus and West Nile Virus, Dr.
 Robbin Lindsay Canadian Science
 Centre for Human and Animal Health
- Duck Malaria, Dr. Lane Graham -Zoology, U. of Manitoba
- Flukes and Tapeworms, **Dr. Vince Crichton** Manitoba Conservation
- TB and CWD, **Dr. Terry Whiting** Veterinary Services Branch

About 35 persons attended this formal session. During the afternoon the participants relaxed by hiking through the marsh or ice fishing. Actually, we spent more time cutting holes in the ice and telling stories than catching fish. Saturday night we were serenaded by Ken Hodges on guitar and Terry Galloway on penny whistle. The serenade was followed by a midnight bonfire on the frozen beach. All in all it was a weekend of useful information and informal comradery enjoyed by all.

The Wildlife Society - Manitoba Chapter

Wildlife Management in Manitoba Speaker Session

On March 7th, 2003 from 8:00am to 5:00pm the Manitoba Chapter of TWS held a Research Seminar entitled Wildlife Management in Manitoba which was held at Ducks Unlimited's Oak Hammock Marsh facility. This event ran from 8:00 am to 5:00pm. The seminar began with a welcome from Don Sexton, the MB Wildlife Society President, followed by a welcome from Jack Dubois, Director of Manitoba Conservation. The following speakers filled the rest of the morning and afternoon session with very useful presentations:

Ken De Smet - Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring and Stewardship in Southwest MB

Hank Hristienko - Management Strategies and their Impacts on Black Bear Populations in North America.

Brian Knudsen - Wildlife Surveys in MB **Vince Crichton** - Chronic Wasting Disease and Bovine TB

Jim Leafloor - Population Management of Mid-Continent Snow Geese

Serge Lariviere - An Overview of Delta Waterfowls MB Research Programs

Henry Murkin and **Mike Anderson** - Ducks Unlimited Canada

Jim Devries - The Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Assessment Study

Rhonda McDougal - Investing in the Carbon Sink Potential of Agriculture and Wetland Sustainability

Stuart Slattery - Problems and Solutions for Boreal Breeding Waterfowl

Dale Wrubleski and **Bairn Mooney** - MB Coastal Wetland Inventory and

Experimental Pond Manipulation for Common Carp

Linda Aidnell - Wolf Movements and Corridor Use in the Riding Mountain Park Region

Leane Hill - Moose Management on Hydro Rights-of -Way in Riding Mountain Park. **Monica Reid-Wong -** Fire in the Boreal Forest

Mike Campbell - I haven't quit hunting, I just haven't been out in 30 years.

Coffee breaks and lunch were graciously provided by Manitoba Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, University of Manitoba's Faculty of Environment, and the Manitoba Chapter of TWS

Manitoba Chapter AGM

The Manitoba Chapter of TWS held its annual AGM at the Oak Hammock Marsh facility on the evening of March 7, 2003. At the business meeting, which followed a pizza and beer mixer, **Don Sexton** received the Past President pin and a warm thank you for serving the Chapter over the past two years. Then the new executive was proclaimed:

Don Sexton - Past President
Alex Miller - President Elect
Jacey Scott - Secretary/Treasurer
Derek Kroeker - Student Representative
Garth Ball - Member at Large
Rick Riewe - President.

Cory Lindgren was thanked by the new Executive for his dedication to the Manitoba Chapter as a past President, and Marc Schuster was thanked for continuing as editor of the Manitoba Chapter Newsletter.

Alex Miller, recipient of the Richard C. Goulden Memorial Student Bursary Award for 2002 presented her work on "Piping Plovers Stewardship Initiatives in Manitoba". The winner of this year's award is **Candace Parks** for her work on the effects of common carp on Delta Marsh.

After the business meeting **Shane Gabor** gave an insightful keynote address entitled "Canada's Water Crisis: Opportunities for Wildlife".

Then the winners of a photo contest sponsored by the Manitoba Chapter were announced, First Prize went to **Terry** while the Second and Third Prizes went to **Alex Miller**.

The day was jam packed with valuable information, new contacts and a revival of old friendships.

Meet your Executive

The first in a series of Bios from the Executive, more to come in the next newsletter - Ed.

Dr. Rick Riewe

Rick Riewe is a Professor of Zoology at the University of Manitoba where he has taught Wildlife Management, Ecology, Boreal Ecology, Resource Management, and Biology since 1973. His fields of interest include northern wildlife management, impacts of industrial development upon native hunters and trappers, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, native land use, native land claims, and the domestic economy of northern hunters. He coordinated the Land Identification Project for the Nunavut land claim. He and his wife, Jill Oakes have lived and studied with the Aboriginal peoples of northern Canada,

Alaska, Siberia, Fennoscandia, and Greenland. For years he and Jill have taught courses in Arctic Survival which they have learned from the Circumpolar peoples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Final Call for Papers 64th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

Voyage of Discovery - Exploring the Past, Present & Future

You are invited to attend the 64th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference to be held December 7-10, 2003, at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. This is the final call for paper and poster abstracts, and an opportunity to request space for group The deadline for paper and meetings. poster abstract submission in June 30, 2003. The website, http://www.Midwest2003.com, provides the most current information available. It is a one-stop shop for submitting an abstract, reserving space for your small group, conference registration, symposium topics, and to peek at the preliminary program. Visit often - new information is added frequently!

The Wildlife Society Meeting Calgary September 18-24,2004

Planning has begun for the 2004 Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, to be held in

Calgary, but its not too late to get involved. The Arrangements Committee is still seeking subcommittee co-chairs in a number of areas. This is the first time TWS has held the Annual Meeting in Canada and it will likely be several years before it gets back this way again. Organization of these events takes a lot of work but can also be fun. So, here's a chance to get involved. For further information contact Rick Baydack at baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca or (204) 793-0247

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10th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Burlington, Vermont September 6-10, 2003

Call for Papers and Associated Meetings.

The Wildlife Society will hold its 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont, September 6-10, 2003. The meeting will include symposia, workshops, contributed papers (oral presentations), and posters.

Preliminary Program

Symposia

- Stable Isotopes in Wildlife Studies
- Wildlife Toxicology Issues in the Northeast

- Woodland Vernal Pools in Northern Temperate Forests
- Globalization of Wildlife Education and The Wildlife Society
- Modeling, Estimations, and Decision Making in Natural Resource Management
- Sustainability Science and the Wildlife Profession
- Suburban Wildlife: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Wildlife Disease and the Urban/Suburban Environment
- Forest Management Effects on Songbirds: Strong Inferences and Syntheses
- Relationships Between Herbicides and Forest Biodiversity
- Assessing Risks to Wildlife Populations from Multiple Stressors
- Influencing Policies through Coalitions: Why Wildlife Biologists Should Participate
- Spatial Statistics in Wildlife Biology: Concepts and Applications
- Conservation, Controversy, and Modern Wildlife Management

Workshops

- Use of GPS Collars for Monitoring Wildlife
- Wildlife Investigator Series: Total Instructional Packages for Your Next K-12 Presentations

- GAP Analysis for Natural Resources Professionals
- Educational Competencies for Wildlife Students in the 21st Century
- Habitat Conservation in Burlington, Vermont: A Case Study
- Trapping Matters: Furbearer Management in Modern Wildlife Conservation

Special Poster Session

 Celebrating a Century of Conservation: The National Wildlife Refuge System

Contributed Papers and Posters

- Ecology and Conservation of Birds
- Ecology and Conservation of Mammals
- Ecology and Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians
- Conservation of Communities, Ecosystems, and Landscapes
- Wildlife-Habitat Relationships
- Wildlife Population Dynamics and Management
- Wildlife Damage Management
- Human Dimensions, Conservation Education and Conservation Policy
- Wildlife Diseases and Toxicology
- Biometrics in Wildlife Management
- New Technology in Wildlife Management

• Other Aspects of Wildlife Management



3rd International Wildlife Management Congress

Ki te raki ki te tonga - Ki uta ki tai (From north to south - From mountains to sea)

The beautiful coastal city of Christchurch, New Zealand will be the exciting setting for the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress. December 1-5, 2003 is early summer, the perfect time to visit New Zealand!

Programme highlights:

dlife2003/

The Congress will have a strong Pacific and Southern Hemisphere flavour, but the main focus will be on contrasting perspectives on wildlife management in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Within the theme of the Congress (Ki te takikite tonga - ki uta kitai: From the north to the south - from mountains to sea) we will bring these contrasting perspectives together for a fascinating global focus on wildlife management issues in the 21st Century.

For more information, visit the conference website at http://www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wil

7TH Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference 2004

7th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference Keeping the Wild in the West

The 7th Prairie Conservation Endangered Species Conferences is coming the Calgary February 26-29, 2004. This conference has a tradition of excellence due to strong support and attendance from a broad cross-section of society including conservation groups, industry, government, and academics. More than 600 people are expected to attend. Keeping the Wild in the West will focus on sharing information and ideas on conserving prairie ecosystems, both big & small. The conference will be interest to a wide range of participants. For more information visit the conference website at http://www.PCESC.ca.

Art Work For Bears

The TWS Wyoming Chapter's Memorial Bear Fund is looking for donations of artwork to help with fund raising. Do you have artwork you purchased or perhaps won at a banquet only to find its luster fade with time? How about the picture your significant other hung on the wall and you've been trying to get rid of for years? This is an opportunity to get some tax breaks for donating this artwork to the Memorial

Bear Fund. An artwork donation could be beneficial in two ways. First, it allows us to resale the artwork and to use proceeds for the Fund. Second, since we are fully tax deductible you can write off the full value of the artwork as a charitable donation.

Money raised is used to finance projects for all species of bears. Our ultimate goal is to have a permanent fund, which we can fund bear projects each year. To date, we have provided over \$22,000 to worthy projects ranging from polar bear research to protecting habitat for grizzlies in the Teton National Forest. We have helped fund projects in four countries and seven states. Since Wildlife Society volunteers administer the Bear Fund no salaries are paid and administrative costs are very low. This allows us to put almost all funding to work for bears.

The Memorial Bear Fund was set up in 1992 in order to honor the memory of biologists Kirk Inberg and Kevin Roy and pilot Ray Austin. All three were tragically killed while conducting a grizzly bear telemetry flight in northwest Wyoming in 1991. Pilot Fred Reed was also killed in a plane crash in northwest Wyoming in 1995.

If you have artwork you would like to donate to this worthy cause you can send it to Bill Rudd, Chairman - Memorial Bear Fund, 351 Astle Street, Green River, WY

82935 or for further information call (home) 307-875-9150) (work) 307-875-3223). Thanks for your help!

LINKS OF INTEREST

- Current issue of EnviroZine. http://www.ec.gc.ca/envirozine/english/h ome e.cfm
- USFWS Conservation Library. http://library.fws.gov/
- Facts about West Nile Virus. http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv
- Urban Goose Working Group (Winnipeg). http://www.gov.mb.ca/ugwg
- The Central Mountains & Plains Section of The Wildlife Society. http://www.cmpswildlife.org/
- The Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society http://www.wildlifeconsult.com/netws/
- The Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society http://www.wyotws.org/
- The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/index.htm