



THE SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Photo Credits: Laura Gardiner

The Saskatchewan Chapter of The Wildlife Society is dedicated to the conservation and protection of our wildlife and natural resources by providing the opportunity for wildlife professionals and students to exchange ideas and experience while promoting and upholding responsible wildlife stewardship.

**CHAPTER NEWS**

**SCTWS Annual Mixer**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mixer and Silent Auction took place September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation. Despite the beautiful weather and concurrent Riders Game, we had a pleasing turnout of 15 members, including 5 new members. We raised \$195 in the silent auction, and several members went home with some great prizes and wonderfully cheap merchandise. Both professionals and students were well represented. We thank all members for coming out and participating in our first event. The Executive hope to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mixer in spring 2013.



Figure 1. Professionals and students collaborate.

We wish to thank the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation for providing the venue and coffee for our event as well as AMEC for sponsoring our organization and Booster Juice for providing delicious snacks.

The following businesses donated silent auction items and we gratefully extend our thanks to their support of the wildlife profession and conservation in Saskatchewan:

- ❖ The Fishing Hole (Saskatoon)
- ❖ Eb’s Source for Adventure (Saskatoon)
- ❖ Canadian Tire (Saskatoon)
- ❖ Cabela’s Canada (Saskatoon)
- ❖ River City Sanctuary (Saskatoon)



Figure 2. Frantic bidding!!

**SCTWS Annual General Meeting**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at the West Harvest Inn in Regina from 1:30 – 4:30pm. The meeting will include:

- ✓ 1:30 General Meeting; election of new executive
- ✓ 2:00 “*The Wildlife Society for me and for you?*”  
– Wayne Pepper



Wayne Pepper was raised on a mixed farm near Mitchell in south western Ontario. From a very early age, Wayne wanted to be a naturalist and was forced to flee the farm due to allergies. Armed with a BSA in Fish and Wildlife Management at the University of Guelph in 1965 and a Masters in Biology at the University of Regina in 1972. Wayne held different positions in the wildlife ecology and integrated resource policy fields with the Saskatchewan government.

After retiring from the government in 1996, Wayne has worked in the environmental consulting field as a wildlife and landscape ecologist. When not occupied with family affairs, gardening and volunteer work, he has been compiling material for publication of a history of wildlife conservation in Saskatchewan. Wayne and wife Carolyn have two children and five granddaughters who he is attempting to brainwash into thinking ecologically.

Wayne's talk will revolve around why TWS has been important to him as a wildlife professional through the years, how it has helped him stay abreast of developments and solve problems in the profession of applied ecology and how it is still important to him. He hopes to discuss ideas of why TWS, and especially the Saskatchewan Chapter, are especially relevant and important for wildlife managers in this age of electronic gadgetry and electronic communication.

✓ 2:30 – *'What wildlifers want for wildlife in Saskatchewan'* – discussion led by Dr. Yeen Ten Hwang

Dr. Hwang will be leading discussions regarding the directions we want the Saskatchewan Chapter to grow and evolve. Including how we can minimize the gap between academia, government and industry to increase collaboration and effectively monitor and conserve wildlife in our province.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided, and of course, there will be door prizes! This meeting is free to members or \$5 for non-members. Please RSVP to [sasktws@gmail.com](mailto:sasktws@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Event – Request for Nominations

The one-year term of the current executive is quickly coming to an end. Consequently, a new executive will be elected at the upcoming AGM on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are currently accepting nominations for elected positions.

If you would like to nominate a colleague or include yourself in the slate of candidates, please forward your name, TWS membership number, and position sought, to our Nominations and Elections committee at [vanessa.harriman@usask.ca](mailto:vanessa.harriman@usask.ca).

Only people who are members of *both* SCTWS and TWS are eligible to run for a position, however all SCTWS members can vote. Term of office for elected officers is one year. If there is more than one candidate for each position (aside from members-at-large), there will be a vote to determine which candidate(s) will hold the desired position(s). The nominated executive will be approved by vote at the AGM. In accordance with the Saskatchewan Chapter bylaws, our Chapters executive shall consist of:

- President
- President – Elect
- Secretary – Treasurer
- Student Representation
- At least one Member at Large (i.e., Board Member).

Responsibilities and duties of each position (as indicated by the Chapter bylaws) are listed at the end of this newsletter (Page 5).

On-line voting for the new executive will occur on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you are unable to attend the AGM and do not wish to vote online, we can mail you a ballot (just let us know).

**Deadline for Nominations is October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**NOT TRIVIAL!**

By Ryan Brook

Q - What large mammal in North America has the highest reproductive output?

A - Feral wild boar are the most prolific large wild mammal in North America. A sow feral wild boar reaches breeding age at 6-10 months of age and can produce 2 litters every 12-15 months with an average of 4-8 piglets per litter, though older sows having 13 piglets in a single litter is not uncommon. The piglets are weaned in 2-3 months. Given this high reproductive output, a population of feral wild boar can double in size in 4 months.



## RESEARCH

### Ducks Unlimited Canada and Bayer CropScience Partner to Examine Pintail Duckling Survival

by David Johns

Thousands of glacial depressions in Saskatchewan's Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) were filled with water this spring and dotted with the bright plumage of abundant breeding waterfowl. An arriving female northern pintail was faced with a stark choice - settle in grassland areas; in cropland areas with fields of standing stubble from last year's harvest or; the enticing greenery in fields of winter wheat?

Our research indicates that where she sets her wings has implications not only for herself but for the survival of this season's young as well. In contrast to spring-seeded cereals, winter wheat is planted in the fall and provides a safe and attractive nesting cover for arriving pintails but also supports higher nest densities and survival.

However, duckling survival in cropland can be 16-52% lower than grassland-dominated landscapes and lower brood survival rates may offset the nesting success gains



obtained from winter wheat. Our main objective was to investigate whether this nest-brood survival trade-off exists.

Pintail breeding ecology was studied

in 2011 and 2012 in regions of moderate to high pintail breeding pair densities (>4 pairs/km<sup>2</sup>). These regions were also characterized by winter wheat production and included locally strong gradients between cropland- and grassland-dominated landscapes.

Work was conducted near Climax, Saskatchewan in 2011 and in the vicinity of Lake Alma, Saskatchewan in 2012. Equal acreages of winter wheat, spring-seeded cereals, cereal stubble, hay land and grassland were searched for duck nests using standard nesting-searching techniques. Female pintails were captured at nests just prior to hatch and radio-marked; tracked daily using telemetry, and; broods were monitored weekly from hatch to 45 days of age (or until broods were lost).

Excellent water conditions in the PPR, over both years attracted large numbers of breeding pintails. In 2011, 195 pintail nests were found on 8,000 acres of upland

cover and 53 females were radio-marked. Complete brood histories were collected from 36 females (26 in cropland, 10 in grassland). Apparent brood survival rates were 69% overall in cropland and 70% in grassland-dominated landscapes.

In 2012, 152 pintail nests were found on 10,000 acres and 50 females were radio-marked which provided 44 known brood histories (20 in cropland, 24 in grassland). Apparent brood survival rates were 65% overall in cropland and 75% in the grassland-dominated landscape. More detailed analyses regarding landscape and habitat-specific effects on brood and duckling survival are currently underway.



Sincere thanks are expressed to the research staff, private landowners, Ducks Unlimited Canada's Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research, Bayer CropScience, Environment Canada, US Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetland Conservation Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, University of Saskatchewan, Wildlife Habitat Canada and several private donors.



Contact David Johns ([david.johns@usask.ca](mailto:david.johns@usask.ca)) for more information.

## HONING YOUR SKILLS

### TWS Annual Conference - Portland, Oregon

Upcoming—[TWS' Annual Conference Portland, Oregon](#) October 13-17, 2012.

## JOB HUNTERS

TWS Career Centre: [Wildlife Jobs](#)

## CANADIAN SECTION NEWS



### Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

*“The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada”*

#### Logo Contest

The Canadian Section is holding a Logo Contest for the TWS Conference 2015 in Winnipeg. Guidelines for the logo are outlined below:

#### **Logo must be:**

- Representative of The Wildlife Society and the Canadian Section
- Unique to Manitoba
- Something that is memorable and does not require written description
- Works at any size large or small
- Prepared by Canadian residents (citizens/landed immigrants)

#### **Guidelines from The Wildlife Society:**

- Logo should be a design with one or two graphic elements in addition to “The Wildlife Society,” the Conference year, and the conference city is most effective. Do not try to produce a collage.
- Sharp graphics are required so that features remain clear when design is reduced to ¾ to 1 inch (for example on the lapel pin).

- Logo needs to be a minimum of two colors and a maximum of four colors with a tie in to the conference location.
- A one or two paragraph explanation of the design and its significance to Manitoba and to the 22nd Annual Conference should accompany the proposed logo.

#### **Timeline and Procedure:**

- Logo competition will be announced at the 2012 Manitoba Chapter AGM and in the Canadian Section newsletter in mid-June 2012.
- Logo submissions will be due to Arrangements Co-chairs by October 31, 2012.
- Arrangements Committee Co-chairs and Director of Membership Marketing and Conferences, TWS, will determine the finalists from all logo submissions in December.
- Final logo design will be submitted to membership for voting at Fall Mixer meeting of Manitoba Chapter.
- The logo becomes the property of TWS and any use other than for conference promotion must be approved by TWS.

#### **Winning Submission**

Cash Prize of \$250.00 will be presented by The Wildlife Society to the winning entrant.

#### **Education Series (Webinars)**

The Canadian Section is offering webinars again this year. There are two scheduled for November:

- ✓ **Dr. Eric B. (Rick) Taylor**, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia; “Changes to the Fisheries Act: Implications for Fishes and Biodiversity Conservation”  
Friday, November 2, 2012, @ 3pm EDT
- ✓ **Joëlle Taillon**, Département de biologie et Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval ; “A Challenge for Conservation: Spatio-Temporal Changes in the Use of Calving Grounds by Migratory Caribou”  
Friday, November 23, 2012, @ 3pm EST

#### **CSTWS Newsletter**

Check out the most recent issue of the Canadian Section newsletter here:

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/canada/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=181&Itemid=294](http://joomla.wildlife.org/canada/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181&Itemid=294)



## Article VIII. Elections and Officers

Section 3 – Officers: Officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, President-Elect (who shall serve as Vice-President), Secretary-Treasurer, Student Representative and at least one Member-at-Large. Their duties are:

Clause A – President – The President shall have general supervision of the Chapter officers, shall appoint with the advice of the Executive Board, Chairmen of all regular and special committees and shall preside as Chairman at meetings of the Executive Board and shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating and Elections Committee. The President may represent the Chapter or appoint alternate representatives to other Chapter, Section or Society boards, committees or meetings including the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society. As Chapter Representative shall represent and serve as liaison to the Section for the Chapter, provide the editor of the Section newsletter with news and items of interest from the Chapter area, and serve as a contact among the Section, Chapters and members in their respective areas. The Representative will assist the Section President by verifying mailing addresses, conducting membership drives, polling individual members and assisting in routine Section business.

Clause B – President Elect – The President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or upon the inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. In the event the President-Elect cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, *pro tempore*.

Clause C – Secretary-Treasurer – The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the files, records and fund of the Chapter, and shall submit complete financial reports to the last meeting of his term of office. Duties also shall include the receipt and disbursement of funds, the recording of the minutes of all meetings, the maintenance of the membership rolls, correspondence and the issuance of meeting notices.

Clause D – Student Representative – The Student Representative shall act as a liaison between the Chapter and student members of the Chapter and the general business of the Chapter.

Clause E – Member-at-Large – The Member-at-Large shall be responsible for promoting the Saskatchewan Chapter and The Wildlife Society to other wildlife professionals and organizations. In addition, the Member-at-Large shall assist with soliciting memberships, and the general business of the Chapter

Clause F – Executive Board – The Executive Board shall act as the governing body for the Chapter and shall be made up of the above named officers, the Past-President, the Member-at-Large and the Student Representative.



Figure 3. Student Rep Gillian Treen, President Jennifer Shepherd, Member-at-Large Dr. Yeen Ten Hwang, Member-at-Large Ed Beveridge, Secretary Treasurer Al Arsenaault. Missing - President-elect Dave Messmer.

## WHAT ABOUT US?

### Current Executive

**Jennifer Sheppard**

President

[Jennifer.Sheppard@EC.GC.CA](mailto:Jennifer.Sheppard@EC.GC.CA)

**Dave Messmer, MSc**

Vice-president

[Dave.Messmer@EC.GC.CA](mailto:Dave.Messmer@EC.GC.CA)

**Al Arsenault, MSc, CWB, P.Biol.**

Treasurer

[al.arsenault@amec.com](mailto:al.arsenault@amec.com)

**Gillian Treen**

Student Representative

[gillian.treen@usask.ca](mailto:gillian.treen@usask.ca)

**Ed Beveridge**

Board Member

[ed.beveridge@gov.sk.ca](mailto:ed.beveridge@gov.sk.ca)

**(SCTWS Newsletter Editor; article submissions)**

**Dr. Yeen Ten Hwang**

Board Member

[yeenten.hwang@gov.sk.ca](mailto:yeenten.hwang@gov.sk.ca)

### Chapter Website

We continue to work with TWS headquarters to establish a website for our newly founded chapter. TWS headquarters has recently completed a re-vamp of the TWS website and are providing website development guidance and formatting to Sections and Chapters. We look to have the website up and running this year.

### SCTWS Mailing Address

Saskatchewan Chapter The Wildlife Society  
c/o Al Arsenault  
423 Carr Cove  
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1M2

## JOIN THE SCTWS!

### Membership Has Its Advantages:



The members of The Wildlife Society manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitats. They actively manage forests, restore wetlands, restore endangered species, conserve wildlife on private and public lands, resolve wildlife damage and disease problems, and enhance biological diversity. As a SCTWS member, you can bring your experience and passion for wildlife management to the fore – join today!

You can join the SCTWS by completing the attached application form and submitting per the following:

1. Online:  
Through <http://store.wildlife.org> (i.e., only applicable for full members of TWS)
2. In person:
  - a. In Saskatoon: Contact Jennifer Sheppard (phone 306-975-4791)
  - b. In Regina: Contact Yeen Ten Hwang (phone 306-787-5079)
3. Mail In:  
Complete the attached application and mail cheque (payable to: "Saskatchewan Chapter of TWS") or money order to:

SCTWS, c/o Al Arsenault  
423 Carr Cove  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7S 1M2

### New TWS Members

If you are not a Wildlife Society member yet:

1. Click [here](#)
2. Enter your information. Click "Submit"
3. Select membership type. Click "Continue"
4. Select working group (if applicable)
5. Select section/journal (if applicable)
- 6. Select Chapter Membership**
7. Continue and add to basket
8. Proceed to check out

If you reside in Saskatchewan, consider purchasing a SCTWS membership for only \$5 (good through Dec. 31, 2012!) Any questions, concerns, or comments can be directed to the executive of SCTWS at: [saktws@gmail.com](mailto:saktws@gmail.com).





## Saskatchewan Chapter of The Wildlife Society Membership Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TWS MEMBERSHIP # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership costs are \$5 annually, and are applicable from date of purchase until December 31 of the same calendar year.

Memberships can be purchased:

4. **Online:**  
Through <http://store.wildlife.org> (i.e., only applicable for full members of TWS)
5. **In person:**
  - a. In Saskatoon: Contact Jennifer Sheppard (phone 306-975-4791)
  - b. In Regina: Contact Yeen Ten Hwang (phone 306-787-5079)
6. **Mail In:**  
Complete this application and mail cheque (payable to: "Saskatchewan Chapter of TWS") or money order to:

SCTWS, c/o Al Arsenault  
423 Carr Cove  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7S 1M2