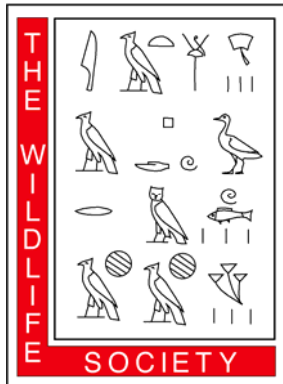




# THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER

Newsletter of The New England Chapter  
Of The Wildlife Society  
Fall 2009



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### The Big MOE

The 13th annual Massachusetts Outdoor Expo (Big MOE) will be held at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club grounds in Sturbridge on September 27 from 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. The Big MOE is sponsored by the Facts About Wildlife and Nature Society (FAWNS) and is a free, family-oriented event celebrating outdoor skills, nature, art, and wildlife. Co-sponsors are MassWildlife, The Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, The Weatherby Foundation, and the Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs. Sportsmen's clubs, locally-based outdoor-related businesses, and other conservation groups sponsor a variety of skill stations, craft tables, and other exhibits relating to wildlife and the outdoors. The Big MOE is the perfect opportunity to introduce young and old to outdoor skills and activities. For additional information, contact Gary Zima, (508) 389-6314.

### Fall Workshop

The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society will not hold an annual fall workshop. An email to chapter members soliciting ideas for the workshop returned little feedback. In response, the Executive Committee regretfully decided to cancel the fall meeting. The Committee will again be looking for ideas and assistance with planning for the Fall 2010 meeting during the first quarter of 2010.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There's an oft quoted expression that states "*May you live interesting times*". Erroneously cited as a Chinese curse, it does, however, seem to encompass both the challenges and the opportunities that those of us in the wildlife profession are currently experiencing. Declining agency budgets, an electorate whose connection with the natural world continues to devolve, and the specter of climate change undoing decades of hard-fought efforts are some of the challenges that give me pause late at night. I'm sure that many of you have, from time to time, also felt the weight of these challenges. It's important to put things into perspective, however. Our profession is quite young within the larger history of scientific endeavors. In the short time that we've been practicing this discipline, we have seen amazing progress in the recovery of many species of native wildlife and in our understanding of the processes that govern the natural world. Our efforts allow the policy makers to make decisions with the benefit of scientific information. Whether they chose to utilize that information, however, is a topic for another time. Suffice it to say that the work we do is important, and our efforts do make a difference in the world.

We have one vacancy on the Executive Board and two Committee Chair vacancies that we need to fill as soon as possible. The President Elect, Program, and Bylaws positions are currently vacant. The position duties are explained on our Chapter website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland/>. Please consider filling one of these positions. We are a stronger, more effective chapter when our members are actively involved. If you have an interest, or you want more information on one of these positions, contact me at [andrew\\_major@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_major@fws.gov).

Andrew "Drew" Major  
President, New England Chapter, TWS

## STATE REPORTS

### Connecticut

*Judy Wilson, CT DEP Wildlife Division - CT Representative to the Executive Committee*

#### **Spring 2009 Turkey Season Results**

Connecticut's spring wild turkey season was open statewide and ran from May 6 to May 30. A total of 6,818 permits were issued and 1,502 birds were harvested, with an overall hunter success rate of 14.9%. The harvest consisted of 1,079 adult males, 414 juvenile males and 9 bearded hens. Harvest decreased by 4%; however permit issuance increased slightly (3%). Eight hundred sixty-seven hunters harvested multiple birds: 564 hunters harvested 2 birds and 303 hunters harvested 3 birds. At least one turkey was harvested from 148 of Connecticut towns (88%) with Woodstock reporting the highest harvest at 47 birds followed by Lebanon (39), Pomfret (31) and Cornwall (31). State land hunters reported the highest harvest from Cockaponset State Forest (27), Natchaug State Forest (17), and Pachaug State Forest (15). On a regional basis, the highest harvests were reported in wild turkey management zones 5 (255), 1 (152), and 2(140). The spring wild turkey season continues to be the most popular of the three CT wild turkey hunting seasons. This season has maintained the highest permit issuance and harvest since 1981, when wild turkey hunting began in CT. (For more information contact Mike Gregonis at 860-642-7239.)

#### **Connecticut Breeding Waterfowl Survey**

The DEP Wildlife Division conduct the annual spring breeding waterfowl survey in April, which is part of the Northeast Breeding Waterfowl Survey coordinated through the Mallard Committee of the Atlantic Flyway Council's Migratory Gamebird Technical Sections. Specifically designed to index mallard breeding pair numbers, the survey has evolved to provide the population data that drive the Eastern Mallard Adaptive harvest management (AHM) models. These models are used to prescribe duck hunting seasons (season length and bag limits) in the Atlantic Flyway. Results of the survey are shown below.

**CT Breeding Waterfowl Pair Results for Major Species**

| SPECIES          | 2009   | 2008   | FIVE YR AVG |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| <i>Blk duck</i>  | 241    | 228    | 369         |
| <i>C. goose</i>  | 9,620  | 9,851  | 10,598      |
| <i>Mallard</i>   | 18,112 | 17,936 | 17,263      |
| <i>Wood duck</i> | 5,946  | 10,550 | 8,387       |

Mallards continue to dominate the survey. They are very adaptable birds that will regularly nest in a variety of different landscapes and are very tolerant of human disturbance. The Canada goose estimate for this year represented a 2% decrease from last year and a 9% decrease from the five-year average. CT's liberal resident Canada goose seasons are having an impact on goose populations; particularly in those areas where hunters have access to the birds.

The wood duck estimate for 2009 represents a 44% decrease from the 2008 survey and a 28% decrease from the five- year average. The previous two years had the highest recorded breeding pair estimates for wood duck in CT since the inception of the survey. If these two years are excluded from the data set, then this year's count is a 14% decrease from 2006 and less than a 1% decrease from the 2002-2006 average.

Similar to the last year, black ducks were not observed in any inland plots this year. The breeding black duck estimate was 241 pairs. This represents a 5% increase from 2008 and a 38% decrease from the five-year average. These fluctuations in black duck breeding pair estimates are likely attributable to ever-changing habitat conditions and particularly to the secretive nature of this species. (For more information contact Kelly Kubik at 860-642-7239)

#### **Funding Provided to Demolish Long Beach Cottages**

In April 2009, Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro announced that \$909,000 was committed for the Barrier Beach Restoration on Long Beach West through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding will allow for the demolition of and cleanup of 41 cottages and restoration of the site. The site provides critical wildlife habitat for the state and federally threatened piping plover and the state threatened least tern. Progress on the project is the result of strong private-public partnership that includes the support of the Town of Stratford; the CT DEP; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Program; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; the Trust for Public Land; and Audubon Connecticut.

#### **Legislative Update**

Reports of an owl allegedly caught in a 'leghold trap' caused widespread media focus on trapping in Connecticut earlier this year. The case is still under investigation. Senate Bill 994 which was proposed would have effectively prohibited the use of conibear and leghold traps for use during the regulated trapping season. After a public hearing the bill received a favorable report in the

Environment Committee. It was then referred to the Judiciary Committee, but the Judiciary took no action, and the bill died in this committee. The original fiscal analysis of the bill claimed no impact, but this was eventually amended after the DEP presented a fiscal analysis that showed the impact could have been \$500,000.00 or more.

The following are a summary of regulation changes in Connecticut for 2009:

- Eliminate the interview process for physically disabled persons to obtain a crossbow permit;
- Eliminate orange requirements for bowhunting on state lands that are designated as archery-only;
- Allow crossbows on private lands in Deer Management Zones 11 and 12 during the January season;
- Remove the 3-shell limit for hunters during the September goose season;
- Eliminate the season bag limit on beaver and extend the trapping season to March 31;
- Move the fisher trapping season to December and increase the season bag limit from 2 to 4;
- Move the spring turkey season forward by one week to start on the last Wednesday in April;
- End the spring turkey season on the last Saturday in May;
- Allow spring turkey hunters to obtain both a state land and private land permit;
- Establish a second junior turkey hunting training day and extend the hunting hours on junior turkey hunting training days to 5:00pm;
- Extend the private land muzzleloader deer season to the end of December;
- Create a second junior deer hunting training day;
- Allow deer hunters on private land to use a bow during the shotgun/rifle season;
- Accommodate automated licensing regarding the tagging of deer and turkey and methods of reporting harvest;
- Amend the falconry regulations to redefine hybrid raptors the same way as federal laws, to change the permit duration and reporting requirements to a June-July calendar year, and to change the fee for a non-resident falconry permit from \$75.00 to \$14.00 annually.

(For more information contact Mark Clavette – 424-3494 or visit the DEP Website at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov) for a copy of the amended regulations.)

## **Saltwater Fishing License Now Required in CT**

Anglers 16 years of age and older wishing to fish in Long Island Sound are now required by state law to purchase a salt water fishing license. The license costs \$10.00 for residents and \$15.00 for non-residents and is available through the DEP's Sportsmen's Licensing System ([www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmenlicensing)) or it can be purchased at most town clerk offices and many retail outlets and bait and tackle shops. The license is free for residents 65 and older, but it must be renewed annually. Funds generated by the new license will be used for conservation and preservation programs in the state. The saltwater fishing license will provide the DEP with information needed to better manage our fisheries and coastal resources. The Connecticut program will also exempt residents from a federal program that would have required anglers to register with and pay a fee to the federal government.

## **Retirements at the DEP Wildlife Division**

Wildlife Division Director Dale May retired this past June after 27 years with the Division: 12 years as a biologist followed by 15 years as the Director. Dale started his career with the Wildlife Division as a Deer Biologist in 1982 and then led the Furbearer Program from 1983 to 1985 while also supervising the Upland Game and Nonharvested Wildlife Programs. From 1986 to 1994 he supervised the Deer, Waterfowl, and Wild Turkey Programs until becoming Wildlife Division Director in 1994. When asked in a recent Connecticut Wildlife magazine article about his major accomplishments, he replied most of his major accomplishments were "ours" and not "mine" since "they were the result of a collective effort between the staff and myself". He considered hiring key staff, assigning priority duties to people best suited to do the job, and working effectively with them as his most important accomplishments. While Dale is enjoying a well deserved retirement, it is expected that he will remain active in various capacities in the field of wildlife and outdoor conservation. He recently accepted the Chairmanship of the Connecticut Woodcock Council.

Assistant Director Greg Chasko also retired this past June. He began his career as a seasonal with the Waterfowl Program in 1980 and worked his way up to Assistant Director by 1991. He became Waterfowl Program Leader in 1983 after a short stint with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. One of the accomplishments he is most proud of is being the 'Father of Resident Canada Goose Hunting Seasons'. Greg used biological information to

develop this important management tool to help address this critical issue. Greg was also Principal Editor of *Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* (or Wildlife Action Plan). While he plans on playing more than working now that he's retired, Greg also plans on doing some natural resource consulting work. He also hopes to charter some fishing tours.

With the retirement of Ken Metzler, Ecologist, the DEP lost its expert on plant ecology, plant communities, and habitats. Since receiving his M.S. in Plant Ecology in 1977, Ken Metzler was associated with the State Geological and Natural History Survey, first as a contractor collecting state-wide data on lichens. In 1983, he was appointed as Heritage Ecologist, the position he held until retirement in July of 2009. His expertise was called upon for every major land use project that involved DEP; he was involved in statewide surveys such as the National Wetlands Inventory for Connecticut, as well as ecoregional characterization of landscape patterns and vegetation classification and mapping projects that continue today. He was responsible for conducting inventories of the state's plants and habitats, assisting in developing the state endangered, threatened and species of special concern lists, and management of the Natural Diversity Data Base. His imperiled communities mapping project, on which he continues to work even after retirement, will be an invaluable tool for conservation planning in Connecticut.

Daniel Shaw came to the Wildlife Division in 1997 when the Mosquito Management Unit was put into the DEP Wildlife Division, where it was blended with the Wetland Restoration Unit to create the current Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management Program. His experience, knowledge of local history, connections with landowners, and anecdotal observations and stories have been an invaluable asset to the DEP's WHAMM Program. Dan retired as a Mosquito Control Supervisor in July after 36 years of service to the State of Connecticut.

Rick Jacobson, former Assistant Director of Inland Fisheries, has been named as Acting Director of Wildlife. At this time only the Wildlife Division Director position has been approved to be refilled.

## **Massachusetts**

*Tim Cozine, USDA/Wildlife Services, MA Representative to the Executive Committee*

### **Vernal Pool Guidelines Revised**

In March, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) released a revision to the Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat. The NHESP accepts certain biological and physical documentation submitted by outside scientists, resource managers, and other interested parties as the basis for the certification of Vernal Pool Habitat. The recent revision is designed to ensure consistency between the NHESP's "vernal pool certification criteria" and the biological and physical characteristics of "Vernal Pool Habitat" in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulations. The revised guidelines reduce the number of facultative (indirect indicator) species acceptable for certification to four amphibians (i.e., Spring Peeper, Gray Treefrog, American Toad, and Fowler's Toad) and eliminate the "Dry Pool" method for vernal pool certification. In addition, requirements for documenting the physical and biological characteristics of a vernal pool have been enhanced. For example, a greater number of photographs are required of the basin and any inlets or outlets, and the number of egg masses of obligate amphibian (direct indicator) species (e.g., Wood Frogs or salamanders) has been increased from two for each species to a total of five for all species combined. The revised Guidelines document is available. The NHESP has administered the state's official vernal pool certification program for over 20 years. Visit the MassWildlife vernal pool website for information about how to certify and protect vernal pools.

### **Report Herps!**

The NHESP is asking interested conservationists for reports or sightings of certain specific reptiles and amphibians. The species of NHESP interest include: Smooth Greensnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Ribbonsnake, Eastern Musk Turtle, Spotted Turtle, and the Northern Leopard Frog. NHESP is particularly interested in sightings of the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake. These particular species are of interest because:

- 1.) The species is thought to be rare, declining or vulnerable, but there is insufficient information on the condition, number and size of populations to make a determination.

- 2.) The species was removed from the official regulatory list, but the Program believes it still is in need of some conservation attention.
- 3.) The species distribution and abundance are not well known.

Herpetologists want to bring attention to and track reports of these reptiles and amphibians in order to determine whether any of the species listed are appropriate for proposal to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act list. Anyone who has seen the above mentioned wildlife is encouraged to submit a Rare Animal Observation Form available at the following website.

[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/species\\_info/pdf/electronic\\_animal\\_form.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/species_info/pdf/electronic_animal_form.pdf)

Information needed includes date of sighting, specific mapped location and a photo of the observed animal. Submit the form, map and photo(s) to: Data Manager, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. More information about this conservation effort go to: [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/conservation/herps/reptiles\\_amphibians\\_undstat.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/conservation/herps/reptiles_amphibians_undstat.htm)

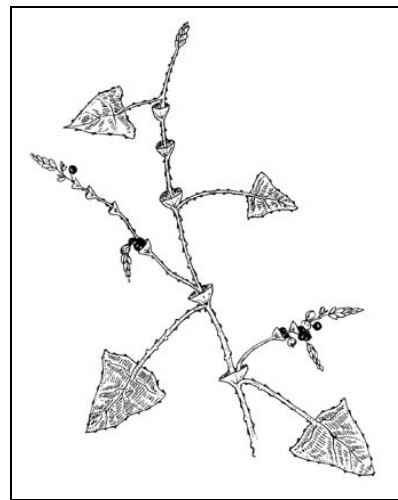
#### **Zebra Mussels Discovered in the Berkshires**

In July zebra mussels were discovered in Laurel Lake in Lee and Lenox. This is the first confirmed location of this invasive species in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Office of Fishing and Boating Access (OFBA) has authorized municipalities to enforce limited restrictions on the use of boat ramps at other locations in Berkshire County believed to be at risk of infestation. Under Massachusetts regulations, OFBA's actions and the July 8 Laurel Lake boat ramp closure cannot remain in effect longer than 45 days without public notice and opportunity for public comment. On July 15, the DCR closed the Quabbin Reservoir to all private recreational boats for 45 days due to the presence of zebra mussels in the state. During the closing, DCR will employ dive teams to visually inspect and test the water and the MWRA infrastructure for zebra mussels, and will re-evaluate the appropriateness of non-Quabbin boats in the future. DCR and the MWRA will also evaluate and possibly adjust their management plans at the reservoir.

#### **Mile-a-Minute Alert!**

Mile-A-Minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) also known as Devil's Tear-thumb, is an invasive weed that has appeared in Massachusetts. Native to Asia, this species was accidentally imported and became established in Pennsylvania by the 1930s. It appeared in southwestern Connecticut and on Block Island in the past decade. Falmouth and

Milton are the only towns with known Mile-A-Minute (MAM) infestations in Massachusetts and control efforts are underway in both locations. MAM is a rapidly spreading spiny annual vine that grows at a rate of 6 inches per day and smothers native vegetation on its way to attaining a final length of 20 feet. It tolerates various soil types and produces abundant bird-dispersed blue fruits with seeds that can grow after being buried for up to seven years. "MAM is an easily identifiable plant," says Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's (MassWildlife) State Botanist. If you believe you have seen MAM, please make detailed notes on the location and take close-up photos. Knowing where any new infestations are located is the first step to controlling its spread. Report your find to Bryan Connolly, State Botanist, at [bryan.a.connolly@state.ma.us](mailto:bryan.a.connolly@state.ma.us) or call him at (508) 389-6344.



Mile-A-Minute Vine, [www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)

#### **Final Spring Turkey Season Figures**

Final figures gathered by MassWildlife indicate a record 3,027 birds taken by licensed hunters during the 2009 spring turkey season. According to Jim Cardoza, this is the first year in which the Massachusetts spring harvest exceeded 3,000 birds. In 2008, 2,689 birds were taken by licensed hunters. Non-resident hunters from 12 states took 216 birds. By county, the breakdown is as follows: Barnstable=25, Berkshire=489, Bristol=140, Dukes=3, Essex=107, Franklin=434, Hampden=215, Hampshire=284, Middlesex=164, Norfolk=83, Plymouth=303, and Worcester=780.

#### **Turkey Monograph Published**

MassWildlife has published "The Wild Turkey in Massachusetts," by James E. Cardoza (Research Bulletin 20, 2009). This authoritative, technical work, by the biologist who, since 1969, has conducted much of the successful wild turkey

restoration in Massachusetts, provides the first-ever, in-depth history of wild turkey restoration efforts in Massachusetts. Topics include early, unsuccessful restoration efforts; successful restoration; turkey hunting; population dynamics; habitat; food habits; limiting factors; population assessment; techniques; challenges; and more. While technical in nature, this highly readable 172-page publication will also appeal to turkey hunters, upland bird enthusiasts, and wildlife-watchers throughout the northeast. To obtain a copy, contact the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Please include a check, payable to the Mass. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, for \$5.00 for postage and handling, note "Turkey Bulletin," and provide a mailing address with your order. Copies can also be picked up at no charge at the Division's Westborough Field Headquarters or at the Fisheries & Wildlife District Offices located in Acton, Belchertown, Bourne, West Boylston, and Pittsfield.

#### **Division Biologists Honored by Conservationists**

Several biologists from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife were honored by conservation groups in April. Peter Mirick, MassWildlife biologist and editor of Massachusetts Wildlife magazine, was honored by the New England Outdoor Writers Association with the Dick Cronin, 2009 Sportsman of the Year Award. Ellie Horwitz, MassWildlife Information and Education Chief, received a photography award from the New England Outdoor Writer's Association in the Fauna Category with her image of a leopard. Dick Turner, MassWildlife Biologist at the Southeast District Office, was awarded an Excellence in Service Award, acknowledging Turner's 60 years of service to the Commonwealth by the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council. Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife biologist, was also honored by the MSC with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Cardoza was also honored by the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society with the Professional Achievement Award at the Annual Meeting and Workshop held in Hadley, MA. Andrew Madden, Western District Office Supervisor, was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Berkshire County League of Sportsmen, acknowledging his efforts to serve the interests of sportsmen, conserve wildlife and the lands and waters of the Berkshires.

#### **Regulatory Actions by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board**

On June 22, 2009, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board voted to revise the dates of the archery deer season so it will begin on the 6th Monday prior to

Thanksgiving, and end on the 1st Saturday after Thanksgiving. This will retain the 6-week archery season while consistently including the Thanksgiving holiday period in the open season. The Board also voted to change the shotgun deer season in Zone 12 from one to two weeks, consistent with the remainder of the state. Both of these regulatory changes will take effect in 2010. The 2009 archery deer season dates are October 12 – November 21. The 2009 shotgun deer season dates in Zone 12 is November 30. On July 28, 2009, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board unanimously voted to prohibit the use of lead sinkers, lead weights, and lead fishing jigs with a mass of less than 1 ounce in the inland waters of Massachusetts. This regulatory change will not take effect until 2012.

#### **New Living with Wildlife Fact Sheets and Bird Checklist Available**

New Living with Wildlife fact sheets on Deer, Skunks, Raccoons, and Neighborhood Wildlife have been posted on the MassWildlife website. The Living with Wildlife series fact sheets are designed to provide information about some of the common types of wildlife people encounter and how to live with and enjoy wildlife responsibly. Tips on preventing conflicts are provided. Hard copies of fact sheets will be available at MassWildlife District offices and the Westborough Field Headquarters. Bird enthusiasts will also welcome a resized, updated Birds of Massachusetts Check-list. Compiled by former state ornithologist Brad Blodget, this check-list is larger in size, includes check boxes, information on the listing criteria, and a legend that indicates the status of the 473 bird species that have been recorded in Massachusetts. Veteran birders will also appreciate the extensive bibliography at the end of the check-list. Check-lists can be picked up at MassWildlife offices. To receive a check-list by mail, send a \$1.22 stamped 6 x 9" envelope to 'Bird Check-list', MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

#### **The Chicks Are Banded**

The Bay State's resident Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons were the focus of a banding effort by MassWildlife biologists during the months of May and June. Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director of MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, reported an estimated 39 peregrine falcon chicks at 17 nests. Falcon nest locations include eight sites in the Greater Boston area, while Worcester, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Deerfield, Amherst and Springfield each host one nest. MassWildlife biologists and technicians

visited known or suspected eagle nest sites from Fall River to Sheffield, to the Merrimack River as well as the "core" population on Quabbin Reservoir and the Connecticut River and banded 37 eaglets. Of 22 eagle nesting attempts, 21 were successful, resulting in the fledging of 37 eaglets, an unusually high rate of success. Three new nest sites were located in the towns of Hadley, Holyoke, and Lunenburg. MassWildlife has estimated a statewide total of 27 eagle territories.

### **New Hampshire**

*Mark Ellingwood, NH Fish and Game, NH Representative to the Executive Committee*

#### **Merger Bill Defeated**

A senate bill that would have merged the Fish and Game Department with Agriculture, Cultural Resources, Parks and Recreation, and Forests and Lands was defeated in the House, following a strong showing of opposition by Fish and Game constituents. The bill would also have moved Fish and Game Conservation Officers to the NH Department of Safety, which is home to NH state police and DMV enforcement.

#### **State Budget Effects Employees**

New Hampshire budgets have been impacted by the recent economic downturn. As of early August, employees appear headed toward a contract that among other things will include nine unpaid furlough days per year for the next two years. Furlough days will apply to Fish and Game employees, although the Department is self-funded.

#### **WNS Devastates Bat Colony**

White nosed syndrome was discovered in New Hampshire this past winter during winter monitoring of a mine in northwest NH. This summer a maternity colony in Peterborough, NH, studied for over 15 years, was found to have suffered significant impacts. The colony, which has averaged 2,000 bats over the past 15 years, was described as being "functionally gone" this past July.

#### **Bear Conflicts Reflect Weather**

Residual acorns carried over from significant acorn production during the fall of 2008, helped keep bear complaints manageable during the spring and early summer of 2009. With the delayed onset of fruiting summer shrubs due to extended rain and cool temperatures, bear complaints picked up significantly during the second half of July. Most complaints focused around plastic topped dumpsters (which are easy for bears to access) and purposeful bear feeding. A rule that

functionally prohibits bear feeding in NH has yet to be tested.

#### **Spring Turkey Season Close to Record**

New Hampshire's spring turkey season resulted in a total harvest of 4,059 birds, with 14% of the total being taken during youth turkey hunting weekend. The season tally, while not a record, was comparable to last year's record harvest of 4,109 birds. The season was results were considered good in view of our early spring green-up and related observations of early breeding. Permit sales appear similar to last year, despite a price increase from \$5 to \$15. Spring poult production appears to have been impacted by June and July rains and cool temperatures. Grouse and woodcock, which nest earlier, are thought to have been less impacted.

#### **Wildlife Grants Received**

New Hampshire Fish and Game along with partnering agencies and organizations received two competitive State Wildlife Grants this spring totaling 1.72 million dollars. The New Hampshire Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will lead "Staying Connected in the Northern Appalachians", a grant that aims to identify key wildlife corridors that connect the protected lands of northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. For the "Rangewide New England Cottontail Initiative" The Wildlife Management Institute will coordinate on-the-ground management for New England cottontail in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

#### **Habitat Brochures Available**

Four new habitat brochures (shrublands, Appalachian oak-pine forests, lowland spruce-fir forests, and peatlands) produced by UNH Cooperative Extension with support from NH Fish and Game and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, are now available for download, from [www.nhwoods.org](http://www.nhwoods.org).

### **Vermont**

*Paul Hamelin, VT Fish and Wildlife Department, VT Representative to the Executive Committee*

No report submitted.

### **Rhode Island**

*Brian Tefft, RI DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife, RI Representative to the Executive Committee*

No report submitted.

## CHAPTER BY-LAW CHANGES

### **Draft By-law Changes: we're looking for input!**

In October, the Chapter will post draft bylaws changes as suggested by the Executive Committee on the website. We are looking to change the position of President Elect to that of Vice President, and we are proposing to eliminate the term limits for state representatives. The Chapter Executive Committee would like to receive comments from the membership before we submit these changes to a vote. Look for an email notice once the draft changes have been posted.

## NORTHEAST SECTION UPDATE

### **Field Course a Success!**

The long-anticipated Wildlife Field Course, a TWS Northeast Section initiative designed to fill a perceived need in undergraduate education, was held May 17-30 at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Kehoe Conservation Camp. Sixteen students attended; fifteen undergraduates and one graduate student, with a wide variety of backgrounds and expectations. Dr. Bill Healy and I served as the primary instructors, aided by a stream of professionals who volunteered their time to make the trip to Vermont and lead the various modules. The course was offered for three credits through Castleton State College in Vermont.

A wide range of subjects were covered; from basic map and compass skills to chemical immobilization and topics in between. This link on the Section's website gives additional course information and a syllabus for more detail:

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/NE//index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=191&Itemid=302](http://joomla.wildlife.org/NE//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=191&Itemid=302). The

basic organization was to provide a week of instruction in various field skills and flora and fauna identification. The majority of the field exercises were conducted at the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area, a property of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. This was an ideal setting with a variety of habitats and forest age classes, easy access, and even a pair of nesting peregrine falcons. Highlights of the instruction included the students' opportunity to complete a basic hunter education course, and many hands-on opportunities to set a variety of traps, participate in furbearer necropsies, and sampling fish with seines.

The biologists who volunteered their time to serve as instructors set an enduring example of professionalism and dedication for these students. The Section could not have attempted this course

without the partnership of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, special thanks to Tom Decker and Mark Scott. Tom and Mark were part of the small group that conceptualized this course several years ago and followed through to the finish in great fashion. Additional thanks to John Paul from Castleton State College, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5, the New England Chapter of TWS, and The Northeast Association of Wildlife Damage Biologists, who provided initial funding by donating their treasury to us specifically for this endeavor when the group disbanded in 2006.

The New York chapter and the NY Trappers Association each donated a full scholarship to the course (\$750), though only one was awarded. The Pennsylvania chapter offered three partial scholarships but did not award any. Those unsought scholarships were the only disappointment to me in this endeavor and I hope that in the future we are able to fill all those slots. Personally, I found the whole process quite rewarding and wish to thank all who participated. Bill Healy in particular deserves special thanks for devoting so much time to the course and instilling in the students a real desire to learn.

John McDonald, Northeast Section TWS  
Representative  
[john\\_e\\_mcdonald@fws.gov](mailto:john_e_mcdonald@fws.gov)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

**New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Spring Business Meeting  
March 11, 2009**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New England Field  
Office, Concord, NH**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Ellen Snyder, Drew Major, Jim Cardoza, Nicole Hamilton-Smith, Trina Moruzzi

Call In/Web Conference: Susan Langlois, Judy Wilson, Ken MacKenzie, John McDonald, and Michelle Cozine

### **Status of nominations:** Ellen Snyder

There is not a large slate of nominations for officers. Nobody has expressed an interest in President-elect. Officers may only run for 2 terms. Jim Cardoza said that if nobody comes forward to be nominated then the executive board can appoint someone to the position at the next meeting. The ballot for nominations will be going into the mail this week and will include a president-elect position write-in space, secretary/treasurer, state representatives, as well as write-in spaces for each position.

**April 16 meeting agenda and workshop:** Ellen Snyder  
The spring 2009 workshop will be held Thursday, April 16, 2009 at the Region 5 USFWS Headquarters building in Hadley, MA from 8:30-4:00. The workshop will include a business meeting in the morning followed by a "hot topics" session with wildlife news from across the region. The afternoon workshop will focus on the status and restoration of the New England cottontail. A finalized agenda will be posted on the New England Chapter website: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland> and will also be posted on the Chapter's listserve.

**Budget update:** Trina Moruzzi  
The Chapter has a current balance of \$8778.18 in its account. A donation of \$200 was paid in January to the University of Maine student chapter of TWS toward the Eastern Student Conclave. This is the final year of our 5-year endowment pledge to TWS and will be paid in May. The annual auditor's report came back in good standing.

**Membership Update:** Nicki Hamilton-Smith  
We have received the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter membership list and the current list will be updated.

**International Symposium on Urban Wildlife & the Environment:** Nicki Hamilton-Smith  
This symposium will be held June 21-24, 2009 at the University of Massachusetts. A discussion was held on the opportunity to have a table at the symposium or contributing money to be a co-sponsor of the program. Nicki will look into how we can contribute. Nicki was also looking for ideas for field trips that get at the interface between wildlife and humans.

**2009 Workshop ideas:** Drew Major  
Possible workshop ideas include: hot topics based on theme, stimulus projects, and any more that people might be interested in or can think of.

**Upcoming Executive Board meetings:**  
The next Executive Board meeting will be held July 22, 2009 at the USFWS Field Headquarters in Concord, NH.

Submitted March 31, 2009  
Trina Moruzzi  
Secretary/Treasurer NETWS

**New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Spring Business Meeting  
April 16, 2009  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New England Field  
Office, Concord, NH**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Election Results:** Ellen Snyder read results with the exception of the President-Elect position. There were a number of write-in candidates for this position and the top vote winner will need to be contacted to confirm acceptance of the post prior to announcement.

President- Drew Major  
President-Elect- Vacant  
Secretary/Treasurer- Trina Moruzzi

State Representatives- NH-Mark Ellingwood; MA-Tim Cozine; RI- Brian Tefft  
Judy Wilson will continue for another 2-year term as CT State Rep, and Paul Hamelin will continue for another 2-year term as VT State Rep.

**Treasurer's Report:** Trina Moruzzi  
Current balance- \$8502.40  
The Chapter has been paying a \$1000.00 annual installment to the TWS Endowment Fund and this year will be our final payment (due in May 2009). Additionally, the Chapter has been supporting other TWS meetings and the NE TWS Student Conclave. Our balance remains healthy; there are no budgetary issues to vote on at this meeting, and there were no suggestions from the floor.

**Committee Reports:**  
**By-Laws-** Jim Cordoza reported on three by-law changes that have been approved: 1. Redefined criteria and process for Honorary Membership; 2. Electronic balloting for Chapter voting; 3. Switch from Robert's Rules to Standard Code of Parliamentary Process.

**Conservation Affairs-** Kim Royar reported on three issues: 1. Our position regarding the narrowing of eligibility in the Farm Bill. We contacted multiple leaders and only received one reply from Senator Gregg in NH. It was not encouraging; 2. The committee received a lot of feedback from chapter members regarding impact of lead ammo and fishing tackle which suggested we restrict our position to impacts on wildlife and not include human impact. Kim gave praise to Paul Hamelin for his extensive input on this issue; 3. There are seven TWS position statements open for comment at this time and chapter members are encouraged to participate in the process.  
**Programs-** Drew Major solicited suggestions / topics for our fall meeting. Please contact him with your thoughts.

**Information / Education-** Ellen announced Michelle Cozine taking over from Susan Langlois. Thank you to Susan Langlois for her years of work including an excellent job producing the Chapter newsletter.

**Membership & Website-** Nikki Hamilton-Smith and Ken Mackenzie taking over from Jim Oehler. Thanks to Jim Oehler for all his hard work. Nikki and Ken have a transition meeting scheduled for 4/17/09. We will begin posting presentations given at our meetings on the website including any we have archived.

**NE Section Updates:** John McDonald updated the chapter on section business- 1. The undergrad field course is getting a good response, but there are still slots available. Cost is \$750 and includes three credits through Castleton State; 2. There will be a Section Meeting on 4/27 at 5pm taking place at the Northeast conference in PA., 3. There is a seminar on survival estimation available for \$125 on Sunday 4/26.  
There were a number of issues covered at the TWS Council meeting in March: 1. A by-law change to make an individual's membership term fall on the anniversary of the date they joined instead of following a set date in the calendar year; 2. Debate over requiring membership for

TWS Certification. Council is split on making requirement retroactive to beginning of the program vs. on a going forward basis. Seeking your feedback; 3. Lead in the environment position statement. Over sixty comments received so far; 4. Cost saving measures for the meeting in Monterey. There will not be a closing banquet this year. Also, awards ceremony moved to Sunday afternoon to try to boost attendance; 5. Anticipating a proposal to unify the dues at the National, Section, and Chapter levels in the next year.

- We have a new editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management, Dr. Frank Thompson, US Forest Service.
- The Section Newsletter will now be produced monthly and primarily available electronically.
- Council is seeking feedback on the Wildlife Professional – interested in your input regarding the type of content you think would be most useful.
- New book series has been approved.
- New Techniques manual coming out in two volumes (over 1000 pages)

**Awards Presentations:** Two awards are given by the Chapter annually; the Certificate of Appreciation and the Professional Achievement Award. This year's recipients were: Certificate of Appreciation – Janice Holland, Old Saybrook Land Trust, and Professional Achievement – Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife.

Submitted April 26, 2009  
Ellen Snyder, Past President, NETWS

**New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Executive Board Meeting  
July 22, 2009  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New England Field  
Office, Concord, NH**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Drew Major, Trina Moruzzi, Jim Cardoza, Mark Ellingwood

**Treasurer's report:** Trina Moruzzi  
There is a current balance of \$8,223.15 in our bank account. The final pledge of \$1000.00 has been paid to TWS's endowment fund. No other major expenses are expected for the remainder of the year.

**Filling board and committee chair vacancies:** Drew Major  
Current vacancies in the Chapter include president-elect, archivist, bylaws committee chair, and program committee chair. Nicki Hamilton-Smith provided a list to the executive board of folks in the Chapter who have been members for at least 4 years in order to identify people who might be interested in those positions. Trina Moruzzi agreed to become the archivist. Anyone interested in any of the other positions should contact Drew.

**Bylaws changes:** Drew Major made 2 proposals to changes in the bylaws regarding president and president-elect positions. The first option was to decrease the president's position term from 5 to 3 years which entails that person serving as president-elect for 1 year, then they serve as president for 1 year and then past president for 1 year. The other option was to create a vice president rather than a president-elect, in which the vice president would serve for 2 years and not be obligated to serve as president afterward. The president would then serve for 2 years and 1 year as past president therefore eliminating the president-elect obligation. A discussion followed and the proposal of the second option of creating a vice president position was decided. Drew also made another proposal to eliminate term limits on state representatives. Both proposals will be voted upon by members of the Chapter this fall.

**2009 Fall workshop:** There currently are no topics for the fall workshop. Drew will send an email to state reps to determine if any states would like to host the fall workshop. The chapter is not obligated to hold a fall meeting if nobody wants to host it. If needed, there can be a special meeting for bylaws changes.

**Membership update:** Nicki Hamilton Smith  
There currently are 185 members in the New England Chapter. Of those members, 147 are voting members and 36 are affiliates. Total membership for 2008 was 206 members, of which 147 were voting and 58 were affiliate.

**Web update:** Members of the executive committee looked at the Chapter website and discussed some possible changes and updates. Some of those included changing the picture on the front page and updating the officer and committee chairs lists.  
If anyone sees updates or pertinent events that should be noted, please contact Ken MacKenzie to update the web.

**Northeast Section/TWS: John McDonald**  
The May workshop in Vermont was a success. It was well attended and many students who attended were not wildlife students.

**State Updates:** New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is doing alright. The general fund is more viable than anticipated. The state has imposed restraints that they are dealing with. Certain vacancies have not been allowed to be filled.  
Massachusetts is doing ok. There have been budget cuts in the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife this year but there have been no layoffs or furloughs. Out of state travel is still permitted.

**Fall Newsletter:** Newsletter submissions are due the first week of August. Get submissions to Michelle Cozine by that time period.

Submitted July 31, 2009  
Trina Moruzzi  
Secretary/Treasurer NETWS

## **STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Connecticut**

Judy Wilson  
(860) 295-9523  
[judy.wilson@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judy.wilson@po.state.ct.us)

### **Massachusetts**

Tim Cozine  
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### **New Hampshire**

Mark Ellingwood  
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### **Rhode Island**

Brian Tefft  
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### **Vermont**

Paul Hamelin  
(802) 751-0101  
[paul.hamelin@fws.gov](mailto:paul.hamelin@fws.gov)

## **COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS**

Audit – Barry Parrish (MA)  
Awards – Laura Saucier (CT)  
Bylaws – Vacant  
Conservation Affairs- Kim Royar (VT)  
Nominating & Election – Jenny Dickson (CT)  
Info & Education – Michelle Cozine (MA)  
Membership – Nicole Hamilton-Smith (MA)  
Programs – Vacant

## **NEWSLETTER**

Michelle Cozine, Editor and Distributor  
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[michelle.cozine@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:michelle.cozine@aphis.usda.gov)

## **LISTSERVE ADMINISTRATOR**

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## **CHAPTER MERCHANDISE**

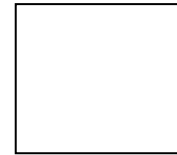
The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society has items available for purchase displaying our logo! All proceeds from the sale of Chapter merchandise will benefit the TWS Endowment Fund. To view merchandise available for sale, follow the link on The Chapter's webpage: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland/>. Items can be purchased via mail order.

### **THE WILDLIFE SAMPLER**

*The Wildlife Sampler* is a biannual newsletter of the New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society that provides up-to-date information on both state (CT, MA, NH, RI, VT) and regional wildlife management programs and conservation issues. The success of this newsletter depends on **your** contributions. Suggestions regarding the content and format of the newsletter are always welcome, as are contributions of news articles, job announcements and meeting notices. Letters and commentaries offered for publication also will be considered. Contributions from student members and members employed by consulting firms, educational institutions, or other environmental organizations are encouraged. Newsletter items should be forwarded to your state representative at least a week in advance of the established deadline dates, **August 1 and February 1**. Please email documents as attachments in Microsoft Word format. See email addresses above. State representatives must submit newsletter items to the Editor by the deadline to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter.

*New England Chapter TWS logo created by Paul Rego, CT DEP Wildlife Division.*

New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
c/o Michelle Cozine  
USDA, Wildlife Services  
463 West Street  
Amherst, MA 01002



The New England Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a non-profit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife conservation. For more information about The Wildlife Society, visit: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/>, and the Chapter: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/newengland/>

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## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER TWS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 10.00 Regular Membership Dues

Renewal

New Member

\$ 5.00 Student Membership Dues

Renewal

New Member

I also would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Chapter in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Your contribution will be used to hire speakers for meetings and provide training/professional development opportunities for regional wildlife professionals.

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Please make checks payable to "New England Chapter, TWS", and mail to: New England Chapter TWS,  
c/o Trina Moruzzi, MDFW Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581