



President's Message

With a fresh dusting of snow and the wind howling out of the northwest, the seasons have again quickly changed upon us. While I have spent many hours pursuing game in the field this fall, my most memorable outing was with my kids, their Zebco combos, and a container of night crawlers on a Ft. Pierre National Grassland pond. There is just something about waiting for your bobber to sink and then seeing the enjoyment on your kid's face while reeling in a nice bluegill into the boat! I hope you had similar experiences with your family and friends.

Again, the 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at Cedar Shores Resort on February 28-March 2. Board members are now in the process of putting together the final details for the annual meeting. If you have an interest in presenting a paper at the meeting or serving on the executive board, please contact Rocco Murano at 605-688-4786 or Rocco.Murano@state.sd.us.

To share with others all of the different aspects of wildlife conservation and management, a new event for this year's meeting will be a slide show of photos from our membership. Therefore, we encourage all members to submit photos of themselves on-the-job and their accomplishments. We will also try and dig up photos from past annual meetings.

Dr. Susan Rupp of South Dakota State University is seeking wildlife professionals to serve as mentors to wildlife students. I'm sure each of us can reflect back and identify a person who made a difference or had an influence in choosing our career paths. Personally, I have served as a mentor for this program in the past and find it very rewarding. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Susan at 605-688-4779 or Susan.Rupp@sdstate.edu.

While it just seemed like Congress passed a new Farm Bill, The Wildlife Society is currently soliciting input from state chapters on recommendations for the upcoming 2010 Farm Bill. Without a doubt, federal conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program have the largest impact on the availability of wildlife habitat found on private lands than any other existing program. With that being said, the board is asking each of you to provide comments and recommendations related to Farm Bill programs. Please e-mail your comments to me at Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us by December 31st. Upon approval from the board, our state chapter will send our recommendations to the national office before their deadline date of January 10, 2011.

With another year coming to an end and those New Year resolutions fast approaching, ask how you can make a contribution to the state chapter by assisting at annual meetings, serving on the board, or becoming involved with a committee. This winter, take time to follow tracks in the snow, search for shed antlers, and tell lies while sitting in an ice shack. Until next time, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

Chad Switzer—President
SD Chapter of The Wildlife Society

MEMBERSHIP

Know anyone who is a wildlife professional, who is in a field related to wildlife conservation, or anyone with an interest in South Dakota wildlife? Have you noticed co-workers or someone you know that has been missing at annual meetings?

Since 2010, we have listed annual memberships on the SDTWS website (contact information will remain confidential). If you see someone who is not on the list, take some time to share with those individuals what the SDTWS has to offer.



Membership is \$10/year for a regular membership and \$6/year for students. You can renew a membership by using the membership form included at the end of this newsletter.

Please make your payment to SDTWS. Please give Nora Kohlenberg a call at 605-222-9408 or an email at Nora.Kohlenberg@state.sd.us if you have any questions.

Life Members: The full list of members is available on the website.

**No Minutes of the Executive Board to report this newsletter.
The next Executive Board Meeting will be in January.**



SDTWS can now be found on Facebook!

SDTWS is now on Facebook! Facebook is a social networking website and it is free! If you are currently not signed up for Facebook, you can use the following link and it will direct you to a page to sign up. If you are already a member, the link below will take you the SDTWS Facebook page, where you can join the group!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=375605397459>

Facebook is a great way to share information. Facebook can be used to post events, such as the upcoming Outdoor Expo, and to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest. The SDTWS Facebook page is also another way that we can reach out to recruit more individuals in the wildlife conservation field in South Dakota. We are very excited about this new tool and we hope as members that you will benefit from it too!

If you have any questions about the page or have some suggestions or ideas to post, please contact Nora Kohlenberg, nora.kohlenberg@state.sd.us.

Positions Open

Here's your chance to become more active.

Board Positions that will be open

- * President-Elect (currently held by Rocco Murano)
- * Secretary/Treasurer (currently held by Nora Kohlenberg)
- * Board Member Position (currently held by John Kanta)

Committee Positions Open

Currently all committee chair positions are filled, but co-chairs and committee members are always welcome. See the complete list on the website.

Please contact Chad Switzer (605) 773-4193, if you are interested in any of these important positions.

2011 SDTWS Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2011 awards. The awards include the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, the Citizen's Wildlife Award, one MS and one PhD scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Each year SDTWS recognizes one wildlife professional and one state citizen for their outstanding contribution in the arena of wildlife resource management. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these awards, please submit a letter of nomination to the Awards Committee **no later than December 15, 2010**. This is a great opportunity to recognize those who go the extra mile in their stewardship of South Dakota's wildlife resources.

The SDTWS also recognizes academic and/or research excellence achieved by graduate students. This year there will be one (1) MS scholarship and one (1) PhD scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. If you would like to nominate a student for this award, please complete and submit the nominations form to the Awards Committee **no later than December 15, 2010**.

Information regarding the nomination process for these awards and the student Award Nomination can be found on the SDTWS webpage at <http://www.sdwildlife.org/awards.htm>. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process or the formulation of nomination letters, please contact Nora Kohlenberg.

SDTWS Awards Committee
c/o Nora Kohlenberg
109 Riverside Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (605) 222-9408
Email: nora.kohlenberg@state.sd.us

Committee Reports

If a committee isn't listed here, it means there was no activity to report for this newsletter.

Resolutions and Public Statements Committee

If you have a resolution for the Chapter to consider you may send it to the Committee Chair at any time. In order to be considered, a resolution only needs to be sponsored by two voting Chapter members. You can send it, preferably as a Word attachment to an email, to the Chair, Dan Hubbard at daniel.hubbard@sdstate.edu. You needn't worry too much about format. As long as the draft has the appropriate background and facts, Dan can put it in the correct format.

If you have any questions, contact Dan (Phone: 605-688-4780). Additionally, if you have an idea for a resolution but aren't sure that you have enough of the "facts" to put one together, contact Dan anyway and perhaps the appropriate committee or person can be identified to help put together a credible resolution.

Submitted by Dan Hubbard

Certification Committee

A web page has been created for Certification on the state chapter website. Please feel free to visit it at <http://www.sdwildlife.org/Certification.HTM>.

Submitted by Dr. Susan Rupp

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Recent Federal Listing Actions

On March 23, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) released a 12-month finding for a petition to list the Greater Sage-Grouse as threatened or endangered across its range under the Endangered Species Act. The Service determined that listing this species is warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing actions. Thus, the species is now considered a candidate for listing and its status will be reviewed annually.

On September 1, 2010, the Service announced a decision to list the shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*) as a federal threatened species, based on its similarity in appearance to the federal endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). Commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon continued following listing of the pallid sturgeon in 1990. However, pallid sturgeon have been found in shovelnose sturgeon catches. This rule was effective on October 1, 2010.

On September 15, 2010, the Service announced a 12-month finding on a petition to list the Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Service determined that listing this species is warranted, but currently precluded by higher priority actions. This action means that this species is now a federal candidate species. Sprague's Pipit was assigned a listing priority of 2; 1 is the highest listing priority number for candidate species.

Osprey Reintroduction Update

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks completed its osprey reintroduction project at Lake Yankton near Gavins Point Dam in 2010 with the successful fledging of 15 chicks brought from Idaho in July. The agency recently learned of a sighting of one of the 2010 class in the Yucatan region of

Mexico. Here are 2 photos of the bird; the first at the Lake Yankton reintroduction site and the second from the Yucatan.



Osprey 5E photographed at the Lake Yankton reintroduction area. This bird was released from the hack site on August 6, 2010. She was retrieved from Lake Yankton on August 8 and returned to the hack tower for another try. The nontoxic orange paint on the wings facilitates identification at the hack site. The paint will fade and disappear with molting.



Osprey 5E reported by Alex Dzib on October 31, 2010 and photographed at the Celestum Biosphere Reserve in the Yucatan peninsula.



Hopefully this individual will survive for the next several years and return to nest in South Dakota. In the meantime, birds from earlier release cohorts should be showing up in 2011 and beyond. If you observe a banded osprey, please note the band color and which leg was banded and report that information on the form supplied at this website:
<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/diversity/docs/osprey-band-reporting.pdf>

South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas

Please report confirmed breeding records from 2010 to the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas project <http://www.rmbo.org/SDBBA2/>. This link also includes information about how to participate in this important bird monitoring project.

Free Bird Field Guides

SDGFP has two free guides available:

“Pocket Guide to Northern Prairie Birds” by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; available from Eileen Dowd Stukel (eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us)

“Backyard Birds of South Dakota” by SDGFP; single copies available at this site: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/critters/birds/default.aspx>. If you need a supply, contact Eileen Dowd Stukel (eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us).

Grassland Bird Tour

The state chapter helped to sponsor the fourth annual grassland birding tour that is spearheaded by the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. The tour was hosted on a private ranch owned by Dale and Ruth Paulson on June 11th and 12th near Wessington, SD. Despite a rainy weekend, approximately 64 people participated in the tour. Thirty-five bird species were observed. Species highlights included Rough-winged Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Lark Sparrow. Several speakers covered a range of grassland-related topics including: bird and plant identification, bird banding, butterflies, nest dragging, and ranch management. Special activities for the kids, including bird house building, were a new part of the tour this year. College credit was available to teachers wishing to fulfill continuing education requirements. This tour has helped to inspire a similar event in Nebraska: *Nebraska Sandhills Grazing Systems and Grassland Bird Tour*.

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema



Fund-Raising Committee “Let’s Gear Up for the Outdoors”

As chair of the fund-raising committee, I would like to encourage each meeting attendee to either solicit or donate one item for the SDTWS auction. This year I would like to focus on outdoor gear of all shapes and sizes. If you have a new item sitting at home that remains unused by yourself, please consider donating it to SDTWS auctions, where it might generate funds for the chapter and also get some good use by another member. If you know of an individual or business that would be willing to donate an item, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining those donations. Finally, I’d like to continue to encourage you to provide your hand-made items. Dollars generated from this event assist the chapter in sponsoring several events throughout the year, such as student scholarships, Bald Eagle Awareness Day, educational programs, supporting national programs, and to help keep meeting costs and associated fees to a minimum. If every individual attending the annual meeting would donate a single quality item, we will have an outstanding auction this year! Thanks for your help in supporting SDTWS.



Newsletter Submissions and Schedule

If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your email or mailing address has changed, send the information to: Charlene "Charlie" Bessken at ladyhawk155@hotmail.com or call 605-222-9445. Thanks.

The newsletter is published four times a year in February, June, September and December.

Special Note: If you change your mailing or email address please let Charlie or Nora know. Thanks.

The Wildlife Society Online Mentoring Program

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from a wildlife professional. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](#) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Want to help but don't have the time to contribute? TWS' Online Mentoring Program is the focus for TWS' 2010 Investor's Campaign. If you are interested in being a donor, please send your donations to The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814 with Investor's Campaign in the memo field. Contributions are tax-deductible.



Join us at the

10TH NATIONAL WILD TURKEY SYMPOSIUM



MANAGING WILD TURKEYS
IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

JANUARY 11-13, 2011

HOSTED AT

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Shenandoah Valley in
Virginia and West Virginia.

Register at

WWW.WILDTURKEYSYMPOSIUM.ORG

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

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SD Game, Fish & Parks
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Dennie Mann
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Board Member

Silka Kempema
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523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-2742

Board Member

John Kanta
SD Game, Fish & Parks
3305 West South Street
Rapid City, SD 57446
(605) 394-2391

Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative: Rocco Murano, 353-7185

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Dennis Mann, 394-2391

Awards - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408, Nathan Baker 773-4345

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194

Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521, Sandy Uecker, 352-5894, and
Jacquie Ermer, 947-4521

Membership - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408

Program - Rocco Murano, 688-4786

Nominations and Elections - Rocco Murano, 688-4786

Resolutions & Public Statements - Dan Hubbard, 688-4780

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - K. C. Jensen, 688-4781 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

Book Service - Bob Klaver, 594-6067

Certification - Susan Rupp, 688-4779

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

Energy Subcommittee - Ad Hoc Biofuels - Susan Rupp, 688-4779

Energy Subcommittee - Wind Power - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709

Fund Raising - Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, 352-5894 ext. 14

Grassland Issues - Boyd Schulz, 697-6041, Bill Smith, 773-3096 & Jim Madsen, 882-5250

Missouri River Issues - Cliff Stone, 734-4530 & Greg Pavelka, 402-667-7873 ext 3334

Newsletter/Website - Charlene "Charlie" Bessken, 222-9445

Public Lands - Eddie Childers, 433-5263, Dennis Mann, 394-2391, & Tom LeFaive 223-2316

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, 226-7621, KC Jensen, 688-4781, and Shilo Comeau, 685-6508

Wetlands - Kurt Forman, 692-8359 & Peter Bergmann, 692-9820

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-2391, John Kanta 394-2391, Ron Schauer, 391-2926, and Jacquie Ermer,
947-4521

Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Down Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742, Thomas LeFaive, 223-2316, and
Laura Hubers, 947-4521

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Application for Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (indicate home or work) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletter delivery) _____

Please Note:

SDTWS's newsletter, *A Prairie Voice*, is all-electronic. Therefore, an e-mail address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an email address).

Please Check One: New Member* 2011 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2010, you will be considered a new member as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Nora Kohlenberg
109 Riverside Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

- Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues (\$10 x 25 = \$250)
- Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues (\$10 x 20 = \$200)
- Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 17.5 = \$175)
- Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 12.5 = \$125)
- Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Nora Kohlenberg (605) 222-9408.

