*South Dakota Chapter***The Wildlife Society**

December 2002

President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying all the glorious outdoor opportunities that this fall can provide. While it may have started out a bit nasty, autumn certainly has given us plenty of fine weather by which to enjoy our favorite pastimes.

The ballots have been counted and results of our special election to select a new President-elect are final. I would like to congratulate Arthur Smith on his election, and also thank Diane Mann-Klager for throwing her hat in the ring. Art brings to the Board a vast amount of experience with The Wildlife Society at the national level. We welcome him and look forward to his leadership.

At its last meeting, the Board attempted to address a situation that has often plagued the Chapter's newsletter. Because our newsletter is sent as bulk mail, and therefore is not forwarded or returned for address corrections, a number of members with 'undeliverable' addresses may not be receiving a newsletter. After carefully considering the current costs associated with printing and mailing the newsletter, the Board decided to use first class mail for the next couple of newsletters. What we hope to gain by doing this, besides merely getting the Chapter's newsletter in the hands of all our membership, is to determine if there is a more efficient and effective manner of delivering the Chapter's newsletter. While bulk mail has been convenient, it has proven to be less than effective. At the Central Mountains and Plains Section meeting held last summer there was much discussion regarding this very same issue. The idea of moving towards an electronic newsletter seemed to generate significant interest. Perhaps that's something this Chapter could consider in the future.

As was mentioned in our last newsletter, several members of the Chapter have initiated an effort to develop a position statement regarding chronic wasting disease and the issue of captive wildlife as related to chronic wasting disease. Dr. Jonathan Jenks, Ron Fowler and Art Smith are busy drafting a position statement for consideration by the Chapter membership. The timeliness of such a position statement is critically important both biologically and politically, and the Chapter membership may be asked to consider adopting a position statement prior to the annual meeting in March. Please stay tuned.

Paul Coughlin

Minutes of the October 28, 2002 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President Paul Coughlin recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Ramkota Best Western in Aberdeen. Board members present were Dan Hubbard, Paul Mammenga, Ron Schauer, Art Smith, and Jennifer Briggs. In addition to the board members, Beth Ullenberg, 2003 program committee member, and Diane Mann-Klager, Tribal Fish & Wildlife committee chairperson, were also present.

Briggs presented the minutes of the August 28, 2002 board meeting. Hubbard moved to accept the minutes as presented, second by Schauer. Motion passed.

Briggs read the quarterly treasurer's report. Mammenga moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Schauer. Motion passed.

Old Business

President-Elect position

Arthur Smith and Diane Mann-Klager graciously agreed to run for the office of President-elect. Ballots were included in the September newsletter and to be returned to Paul Coughlin by September 30, 2002. We are pleased to announce that Arthur Smith will be replacing Ken Parr

as President-elect and thank Diane for running.

Correspondences Sent & Received

Correspondences sent included letters of invitation to Rick Coleman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Chief of Refuges for Region 6, and Paul Gertler, USFWS Migratory Bird and State Programs Assistant Regional Director, to come and speak at the 2003 annual meeting.

Correspondences received included letters from USFWS on finalization of 19 critical habitat units for the piping plover in the northern Great Plains, a request from Natural Resources Conservation Service for comments on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Conservation Reserve Program, and a letter of acceptance from Rick Coleman to speak at the 2003 annual meeting.

Wetlands and Waterfowl Professionals Memorial

The board agreed to form an ad hoc committee, co-chaired by John Koerner and Ken Higgins, regarding a recognition memorial for those individuals who have contributed significantly to the welfare and conservation of wetlands and waterfowl in South

Dakota. They will give a formal presentation at the 2003 annual business meeting.

Chronic Wasting Disease and Captive Wildlife

Coughlin contacted the National Chapter, Colorado chapter, and Wisconsin chapter in regards to their ideas on a position statement or resolution concerning Chronic Wasting Disease. The National Chapter and Colorado chapters are drafting position statements, and the Wisconsin Chapter has released a position statement. The board decided to contact John Jenks and Ron Fowler and have them put together a position statement for the Chapter to discuss at the 2003 annual meeting.

2003 Meeting

Beth Ullenberg, Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Outdoor Recreation Planner, gave the board an update and is working on getting speakers for the program. Diane Mann-Klager is also working speakers for the program. Paul Mammenga is coordinating the arrangements with the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Aberdeen.

New Business

Funding Request

One funding request was received. Sand Lake NWR, Waubay NWR, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, and several other partners are putting together a Glacial Lakes Birding Trail and are applying for grant and requested funding from the Chapter to be used as matching funds to implement the development of the trail, and to fund supplies and printing of trail guides. Hubbard moved to give \$500.00, seconded by Smith. Motion passed.

Newsletter

The board discussed the issue of members not receiving their quarterly newsletters. Briggs will check into the bulk mailing process and decide if we would be better to mail them first class and have the undeliverable newsletters returned.

Next board meeting will be December 28, 2002 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Aberdeen at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Briggs
Secretary/Treasurer

Four Corners/Western Bat Working Group Conference for the Management and Conservation of Bats.

January 29-February 1, 2003, Durango, Colorado (at Doubletree Hotel)

For "call for papers" or registration information contact:
Brad Phillips at (605)673-4853 or bjphillips@fs.fed.us or
Kirk Navo at (719)587-6906 or kirk.navo@state.co.us

It's Never too Early to Start Making Plans!

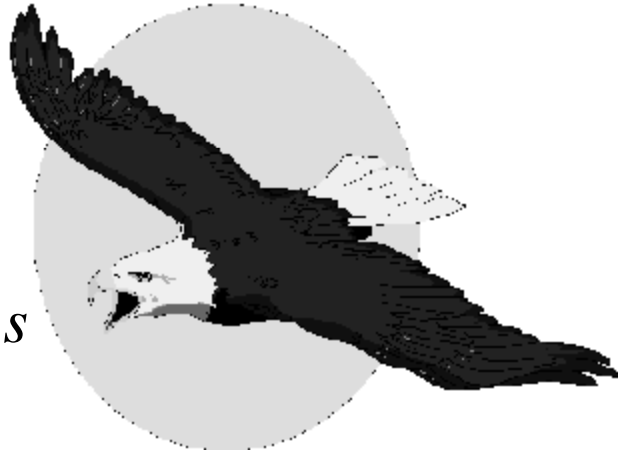
The 2003 South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting is scheduled for March 3, 4 & 5, 2003 at the Ramkota Hotel (605-229-4040) in Aberdeen. A block of rooms has been reserved under the Wildlife Society.

2003 Meeting Theme:

Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus



Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles on South Dakota's endangered wildlife.

The bald eagle has been closely associated with the United States since the early days of the Republic. In 1782 the Great Seal of the United States was adopted, prominently featuring a bald eagle with its right talon gripping an olive branch, its left talon holding a bundle of thirteen arrows and its beak grasping a scroll proclaiming "E Pluribus Unum". Then in 1787 the bald eagle was officially adopted as the national emblem of the United States. However, the bald eagle's interactions with Americans have not always been beneficial to the bird. Bald Eagle numbers in the 20th Century dropped to the point that in 1940 the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act was passed to protect bald and golden eagles. On July 4, 1976, the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States, the bald eagle was listed as endangered in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act. The species' recovery since then is one of the success stories of the Endangered Species Act.

Taxonomy: The bald eagle is a member of the Order Falconiformes, Family Accipitridae. The Family Accipitridae is made up of the diurnal raptors including eagles, hawks, falcons, kites and the osprey. The bald eagle is in the Genus *Haliaeetus*, the sea eagles, (halo – sea, aetos – eagle) and Species *leucocephalus*, (leukos – white).

Description: The bald eagle is a large predomi-

nantly brown-black bird with the distinguishing characteristic being an all white head and neck and all white tail feathers in the adult bird. It is well known that a bald eagle is not "bald." The bald in bald eagle comes from the old English word balde – meaning white. The mature female bald eagle stands about 35-37 inches, with a wingspan of 80-90 inches and weighs from 10-14 pounds. The mature male bald eagle is slightly smaller, standing 30-34 inches, with a wingspan of 72-85 inches and weighing between 8-9 pounds. First year bald eagles will be all brown with some white on the underside of the wing and tail feathers. The second and third year old birds will have much more white on the underside of the wings and the belly.

Distribution: The bald eagle is native to North America and bald eagles have been recorded in 49 of the 50 states in the United States. (Hawaii is the lone state without native bald eagles.) Historic records show the bald eagle has nested in 45 of the lower 48 states. The worldwide population of the bald eagle is around 70,000 with 35,000 found in Alaska and 20,000 in British Columbia.

Diet: Bald eagles feed primarily on fish and therefore will be found mostly along the coasts, lakes and rivers. Other prey includes waterfowl and small mammals. The hunting range of bald eagle from vary from 1,700 to 10,000 acres. The bald eagle is an opportunistic feeder and will dine on carrion. It was this trait that led Benjamin Franklin to champion the turkey over the bald eagle as America's national emblem.

Life History: Bald eagles reach maturity around four to five years old. Bald eagles mate for life, but will take a new mate if the former mate dies or is killed. The mating season varies with the location of the pair. In the South mating will be from September through November, in the West and Great Plains mating can occur from January through March. In Alaska mating lasts from late March to early April. The nest is constructed of branches and twigs and is generally located in a tree or a cliff. The nests can be quite large with a diameter of over nine feet and weighing over two tons. After mating, one to three eggs will be laid with the eggs being laid several days apart. Incubation of the eggs is done by both parents, with one relieving the other, so that the both can forage for food. Eaglets hatch out after 35 days of incubation with the first laid egg hatching first. After hatching the female stays at the nest to tend to the young. It is the duty of the male to bring food to the female and the eaglets. As the chicks grow older the female will leave the nest from time to time and resume hunting. Fratricide can occur among the eaglets, especially if the older chick is a female. The eaglets grow very quickly. At six weeks of age they are nearly the size of their parents. About ten to thirteen weeks after hatching the eaglet prepares to take its first flight. This is quite dangerous for about 40% of the eaglets do not survive their first flight attempt. After the eaglets fledge they will remain in the nesting area for six to nine weeks. In the fall bald eagles in northern climes will migrate south, generally to areas with open water, and then return north in the late winter and early spring. Bald eagles have been known to live up to thirty years in the wild but normal longevity is around fifteen years.

Reasons for Decline: Scientists estimate there may have been as many as half a million bald eagles at the time of the European discovery of North America in 1492. As the centuries passed bald eagle numbers declined as civilization encroached on their habitat. In the 20th Century bald eagles staged a comeback after passage of the bald and golden eagles protection act in 1940. Bald eagle numbers then fell again due to pesticide use, especially DDT. Bald eagles ingested DDT through prey that had eaten plants sprayed with the pesti-

cide. The DDT affected the eagles' ability to lay eggs; in many cases the eggshell became too thin and the incubating parents crushed the eggs.

Recovery: The banning of DDT and conservation measures produced a remarkable comeback for the bald eagle. In July 1995 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service upgraded the bald eagle from endangered to threatened in the lower 48 states. Five years later in July 2000 the Fish & Wildlife Service proposed removing the bald eagle from the Endangered Species List and announce the species recovered. However, at this time, the bald eagle remains listed as threatened as the Fish & Wildlife Service sets up a monitoring plan to ensure the species' continued success.

Viewing Bald Eagles in South Dakota: As in other states in the lower 48, the bald eagle has staged a comeback in South Dakota. South Dakota is home to both nesting bald eagles that can be seen throughout the spring, summer and fall and to migrants that spend winter here. Bald eagle nests can be found on the Missouri River, the James River, Lewis & Clark Lake, national wildlife refuges and in the Black Hills. Wintering bald eagles can be found in open water areas, especially below the mainstem dams on the Missouri River. It is important to remember to view bald eagles from afar. Human disturbance can cause bald eagles to abandon their nests and coming too close to roosting bald eagles in the winter can stress the birds. One way to learn more about bald eagles is to attend a bald eagle awareness day in South Dakota. Several of these events are held throughout the state including locations at Pierre, Sand Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Gavins Point Project near Yankton.

Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designated for South Dakota

On September 11, 2002 the final rule for the designation of critical habitat for the northern Great Plains population of the piping plover was published in the Federal Register. Critical habitat refers to specific geographic areas that are essential for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and which may require special management considerations. An area designated as critical habitat does not afford any additional protection to a threatened or endangered species. However if an action requires a federal permit or receives federal funding and occurs in an area designated as critical habitat, then the agency responsible for issuing the permit or providing the funding needs to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to determine how the action may affect the piping plover or the designated critical habitat.

In South Dakota two units on the Missouri River were designated as critical habitat. Unit 1 consists of Lake Oahe from the North Dakota border to Oahe Dam, a total of 159.7 river miles. Unit 2 consists of the Missouri River below Fort Randall Dam, Lewis & Clark Lake and the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam to Ponca State Park, Nebraska, a total of 127.8 river miles. Lake Francis Case was originally considered for

designation as critical habitat but was removed after additional information received during the comment period indicated that piping plovers did not nest in the area and that the operation of the lake limited the availability of habitat.

For further information on the piping plover and critical habitat please contact the Fish & Wildlife Service's web page at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/pipingplover>.

Congratulations to Arthur Smith President-Elect of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Would you like to follow in Art's footsteps?

Leadership positions in the SDTWS will be voted on at the March 2003 annual meeting.

If you are interested in running for President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer or Board Member or would like more information about the duties of these positions, please contact:

Arthur Smith
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-7595
Fax: 605-773-6245

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Life Membership Dues

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues
 $\$10 \times 25 = \250

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues
 $\$10 \times 20 = \200

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues
 $\$10 \times 17.5 = \175

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues
 $\$10 \times 12.5 = \125

Age 76 and over: Free

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

<p>President Paul Coughlin SD Game, Fish & Parks 200 S Tyler Avenue Pierre SD 57501 phone 605-773-3658 fax 605-773-6245</p>	<p>Past-President Dan Hubbard South Dakota State University PO Box 2140B Brookings SD 57006 phone 605-688-6121 fax 605-688-4780</p>	<p>President-Elect Arthur Smith SD Game, Fish & Parks 523 East Capitol Pierre SD 57501 phone: 605-773-7595 fax: 605-773-6245</p>
<p>Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Briggs U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service PO Box 48 Madison SD 57042 phone 605-256-2974 fax 605-256-9432</p>	<p>Board Member Paul Mammenga SD Game, Fish & Parks 5850 East Hwy. 12 Aberdeen SD 57401 phone 605-626-2391</p>	<p>Board Member Ron Schauer SD Game, Fish & parks 4500 S. Oxbow Avenue Sioux Falls SD 57106-4114 phone 605-362-2725 fax: 605-362-2704</p>

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Dan Hubbard, Chairperson, 636-4780
Awards - Emmet Keyser, Chairperson, 773-4607
Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-3658
Education and Information - Laura Hubers, Chairperson, 947-4521
Membership - Tom Tornow, Chairperson, 256-2974
Nominations and Elections - Ken Parr, Chairperson, 394-9757 ext. 3004
Public Land Management - Dennis Mann, Chairperson, 394-2391
Resolutions and Public Statements - Scott Larson, Chairperson, 224-8693 ext. 27

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - Paul Mammenga, Chairperson, 626-2391
Book Service - Bob Klaver, Chairperson, 594-6067
Certification - Pat Russel, Chairperson, 226-7587
Chapter History - Vacant
Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife - Vacant
Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229
Fund Raising - Tony Leif, Chairperson - 353-7145
Grassland Issues - Craig Mowry, Chairperson, 701-724-3598
Missouri River Issues - Vacant
Newsletter - Greg Pavelka, Editor, 402-667-2581
Nongame/Endangered Species - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229
Program - Ken Parr/Beth Ullenberg, Chairpersons, 394-9757 ext. 3004, 885-6320
Resource Activism - Chuck Dieter, Chairperson, 688-4555
Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, Chairperson, 226-7621
Wetlands - Kurt Forman, Chairperson, 697-2500

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 address has changed, send the information to: Greg Pavelka at the Gavins Point Project, PO Box 710 Yankton SD 57078, or call 402-667-2581, or fax the information in at 402-667-2588.

Email: Gregory.A.Pavelka@usace.army.mil

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership/Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Please Check One: New Member 2002 Dues Renewal

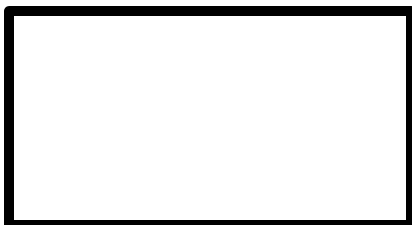
Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular),
\$6.00 (student) to: Jennifer Briggs, 22575 457th Ave., Madison SD 57042

Printed on Recycled Paper

50% Recycled (10% Post Consumer)



Return to:
Jennifer Briggs
22575 457th Ave.
Madison SD 57042