

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Annual Meetings: Alberta Chapter and Canadian Section**

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THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

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ACTWS President's Report

Kashif M. Sheikh

A bit late, but Happy New Year. I do hope you have had a great start to the New Year with your family and friends.

The ACTWS 25th Anniversary Annual Conference is coming up in full swing. Some great scholars, policy makers, advocates, academicians and most importantly diversity of students will attend the conference as the topic is intriguing and concentrating on 'Conservation Advocacy'. Ed Struzik will be the key note speaker bringing a huge portfolio from his work on policy, public speaking and advocacy side. Please look forward to attending this important event. We are also attempting to lure all veteran ACTWS Past Presidents, Rowan award and Dedicated Service Award recipients to attend this conference and celebrate the success of their contributions with the chapter over the years.

All conferences are important but this conference has special place for students and many of them will be able to attend benefiting from a number of new travel awards and other scholarships in furthering their career. The ACTWS new website is functional in its full swing. Please take a look to find details of awards and scholarships on the website www.actws.ca. We need volunteers for the conference so please send your interests. For student related activities, engagement/ advancement send your queries to Kerri at kkrwachu@ualberta.ca or Jason at Jason.fisher@albertainnovates.ca

Over the last couple of years, it was brought to the attention of the executive that ACTWS

current By-laws require a major review. Margo Pybus and Ken Crutchfield volunteered and have had been busy reviewing these and some amendments may be recommended after review of the executive. Please watch out for an update on this.



Thanks for sending in nomination and interests regarding ACTWS 2015-2017 executive. The selection process for the vacant executive positions is completed and you will soon discover some new and old faces combining their efforts and continuing their incredibly worthy work in the province.

Please find some important updates on various regulatory statements on the website. During later summer/ early fall of 2014; ESRD has pushed forward to improve the wetland assessment and management in Alberta and released a Tool Guide for Assessing the Permanence of Wetland basins. This guide aims to offer a standard approach to assess and report wetland permanence which is a primary process in the determination of wetland boundaries. It provides procedures signifying criteria for Crown ownership, elements of wetland functions, empirical methodology for the categorization of wetlands and requirements of experiences by qualified assessors. It can be accessed at <http://esrd.alberta.ca/lands-forests/shorelands/wetlands.aspx>. This is an important resource and would be worth reviewing.

Continued on next page

President's Message, continued

Kashif M.
Sheikh

This is probably my last official message as the President of the chapter as I serve my term until the conclusion of March conference. Your support and help has been great. However, I feel there is long way to go and there is room for more dialogues on various critical issues of wildlife management in the province. One major issue is to see how the impending economic downturn will affect the wildlife and biodiversity management and what may need to be done on the part of wildlife science community. Food for thought.

Please continue to send your thoughts and ideas to improve the functioning of the chapter, and take steps to volunteer for one of our committees and make difference in the wildlife science and management in Alberta. Please write for the newsletter and contribute a short article or update from your backyard.

Wishing you success, progress and happiness from the Alberta Chapter.

Kashif M. Sheikh Ph.D., P.Biol., PWS



NEWS

We have a brand-new website at www.actws.ca that includes online registration and membership renewal.

Canadian Section Report

Relative to the past few years, TWS Council activities have been fairly subdued since our last meeting at the TWS Annual Conference in Pittsburgh but progress has been made by a few of the committees that I am involved with;

Last September, the Improvement of Agency Biologist Membership Ad Hoc Committee conducted a survey of state, federal, and provincial agency biologists, AFWA members, and TWS state/provincial chapter members to understand what beliefs or perceptions are inhibiting them from being members at the parent society level and what can be done to increase their participation in the parent society. A non-response bias survey was sent out in November and the results are being compiled for a preliminary report to Council at the mid-year meeting in March.

- The Bylaws and Ethics Subcommittees have been working on a “standalone” TWS Code of Ethics. At present, the TWS Code of Ethics is part of the TWS Bylaws (Article II). Consequently, any change to the Code of Ethics, such as the “Procedure for Addressing Code of Ethics Violations”, requires a vote of the entire membership. To facilitate changes as required, it was recommended by legal counsel and the Committee that the detailed ethics guidelines and process be moved out of the TWS bylaws. Adherence to the Code of Ethics will remain a part of the Bylaws but the details of the General Provisions, Standards for Professional Conduct and Enforcement will be given in a separate document. If approved by Council, all members will be asked to vote on these changes later in the spring or early summer.

Both Evie Merrill (JWM) and Chris Ribic (WSB) are planning to step down as Editors-in Chief at the end of their current terms in July and December, respectively. The Publications Subcommittee has initiated development of a process for selecting new Editors-in Chief and is seeking input on candidates who would be effective editors and good leaders for the journals. If you would like to make any recommendations,



Art Rodgers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
(art.rodgers@ontario.ca)

please send them to me as soon as possible – we need to fill these two positions in relatively short succession, and also in the relatively near future.

All of the TWS Subcommittees are currently preparing reports for discussion at the mid-year Council meeting that will be held March 8th and 9th in Omaha, Nebraska, during the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference. If you have any concerns or ideas about how TWS can better serve your needs that I can put forward at the mid-year Council meeting, please let me know.

This week I received the call for applications to the Leadership Institute “Class of 2015”. The goal of the Leadership Institute is to facilitate development of new leaders within TWS and the wildlife profession. Each year, the Leadership Institute recruits 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus is on exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the number of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession. Canadians have been very well represented in the last couple of years with two participants in 2013 (Agnès Pelletier and Jonathan Wiens) and two more in 2014 (Erin McCance and Sonja Leverkus). If you are an early-career professional, 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), and currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, you should seriously consider this opportunity. You can find out more on the TWS website (<http://wildlife.org/next-generation/leadership-institute/>) or you might want to get in touch with one of the previous participants. The application deadline is **March 27, 2015**.

Continued on next page

Canadian Section Update, continued

"...Please consider nominating one of our Canadian colleagues for one of the many annual TWS Awards."

Time is running out but if you haven't done so already, please consider nominating one of our Canadian colleagues for one of the many annual TWS Awards; Fellows Program, TWS Wildlife Publication Awards, Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards, Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award, Excellence in Wildlife Education Award and the Group Achievement Award. Nominations for these awards may be submitted to TWS by individual members, Sections, Chapters or Working Groups. Many of the Awards have a **February 15** deadline but several, such as the TWS Distinguished Service Award that is selected by the Canadian Section, are not due until **March 15**. If you would like to suggest a nominee for any TWS awards, or you would like assistance in preparing a nomination, please contact Canadian Section President Darren Sleep (dsleep@ncasi.org), me, or any member of the Executive as soon as possible for further information. The list of awards and nomination details can be found at <http://wildlife.org/get-involved/awards/>.

I hope you are making plans to attend our Canadian Section AGM in Saskatoon, 13-15 March 2015, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chapter. The organizers have put together an exciting program that includes a student conclave, field trip, workshop, quiz bowl, plenary, contributed paper and poster sessions, and our annual business meeting. For more details see the Canadian Section or Saskatchewan Chapter websites: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/canada/csagm> or <http://drupal.wildlife.org/Saskatchewan/CSTWSAM>. See you there!



Winter is the Word—Speaker Series

Alberta Parks, along with the Pincher Creek and District Library Board and the Pincher Creek Community Adult Learning Council, are presenting the 2015 Winter Speaker Series, available by videoconference from participating Alberta municipal libraries or, you can attend live in person at a location below.

February 10	Peter Swain	Cougars in the Cypress Hills; Reconciling Recreation and Wildlife	Medicine Hat Public Library
February 17	Susan Guyette	Sustainable Cultural Tourism	<i>Videoconference from New Mexico – check with your local library to watch</i>
February 24	François Therrien	Alberta: Land of Dinosaurs and other Paleontological Wonders	Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library
March 3	John Hancock	Burgess Shale Tales and Trilobite	Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library
March 10	Max and Julie Winkler	Stories from a Back Country Park Warden Family	Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library
March 17	John Campbell Jr.	A Passion for Falcons, a Pig Barn and a \$10.00 Fine	Sheep River Regional Library
March 24	JeanAnne Teliskie	Youth Interpretation and Appreciation of our Landscapes	Drayton Valley Campus NorQuest College Room 4



To find out if your community library is hosting the lecture series via videoconference, you'll need to reach out to the Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library at 403-627-1152

For more information: <https://aesrd.wordpress.com/2015/01/16/winter-is-the-word/>

Dusky Dune Moth Recovery Plan

We are looking for your help in recovery planning for the Dusky Dune Moth (*Copablepharon longipenne*), a medium-sized moth listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Please see the enclosed *Summary of the Proposed Recovery Strategy* to learn more about this species.

Environment Canada is committed to working with interested parties to help in recovering species at risk. The *Species at Risk Act* supports this commitment by providing opportunities to comment on proposed recovery documents. Input received from interested parties is valuable in helping Environment Canada to revise and finalize these documents.

The proposed *Recovery Strategy for the Dusky Dune Moth in Canada* was posted on the Species at Risk Registry on January 21, 2015 for a 60-day public comment period, which ends on March 22, 2015. We encourage you to become involved in one of the following ways:

1. Read the **full Recovery Strategy** and provide your comments online at:

[http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?
documentID=2713](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2713)

2. Send us your comments by e-mail or mail at:

Email: SARA.PNR@ec.gc.ca

Mail: Environment Canada, 9250-49 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 1K5

3. Contact us by telephone at: 1-855-245-0331 (toll free)

Canadian Section of the Wildlife Society

Annual Meeting

March 13-15, 2015

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

For information, visit: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/Saskatchewan/>

ACTWS Annual Meeting

March 20-22, 2015

Edmonton

Conservation Advocacy: Turning Research into Real Change

Conservation is in everyone's hearts and minds. While we know it is vital for continued existence, achieving it is not easy. How do you go from research to real change? The 2015 conference plenary will profile conservation researchers and advocates who bring the message to the public. We will discuss how knowledge turns into public will, which informs political decisions and finally sound management. We will discuss successes and failures of conservation advocacy from various landscapes and learn how everyone in the wildlife field can become a successful conservation advocate.

It's not too late to register!



The [Alberta Conservation Association](#) (ACA) delivers the [Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program](#) (AVAMP). Through AVAMP, volunteers are encouraged to submit location information on amphibian and reptile observations. We offer our volunteers ongoing support for amphibian and reptile identification as well as guidance in monitoring and submitting observations. Data collected by volunteers supports the conservation and management of Alberta's amphibian and reptile species. For more information contact Kris Kendall, ACA, by phone: 780-410-1978 (local), 1-877-777-FROG, email: kris.kendell@ab-conservation.com, or visit: www.ab-conservation.com/avamp.

Mystery Photo



Can you identify this species? Answer on last page.

Conservation Committee Update



The Conservation Committee is hard at work on a number of issues, some of which will be profiled in the next issue.

The work done by this committee is important. Consider joining the committee to see how you can help your chapter. Check out the website for more information.

Do you know of any conservation issues that might be relevant to the ACTWS? Let us know.

By
Ken Crutchfield



Quotables

"....the public is blundering around in the darkness without a flashlight. You're the flashlight. Turn the blinking thing on." "....public is blundering around in the darkness without a flashlight. You're the flashlight. Turn the blinking thing on."

Kevin VanTigham

Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species At Risk Act for terrestrial species

Environment Canada is seeking input from the public on species recommended for listing by COSEWIC under SARA. Comments are due by April 15. Visit the website for more information.

SARA registry: http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1287 and you can also submit feedback at this site. Pages 5-6 of this document contains guidance on feedback solicited, including socio-economic aspects of listing.

The Conservation Committee may prepare a response on behalf of the ACTWS, but individuals are still encouraged to respond.

Species proposed for listing under the Species at Risk Act that occur in Alberta, Saskatchewan and/or Manitoba

LEGAL NAME & POPULATION	COSEWIC STATUS	CONSULTATION PATH	RANGES
Caribou (Central Mountain population)	Endangered	Extended	BC AB
Dakota Skipper	Endangered	Normal	SK MB
Eastern Tiger Salamander (Prairie population)	Endangered	Normal	MB
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	Endangered	Normal	YT NT BC AB SK MB ON QC NB PE NS NL
Hare-footed Locoweed	Threatened	Normal	AB
Mormon Metalmark (Prairie population)	Special Concern	Normal	SK
Plains Bison	Threatened	Extended	BC AB SK
Western Bumble Bee <i>occidentalis</i> subspecies	Threatened	Normal	BC AB SK
Western Grebe	Special Concern	Normal	BC AB SK MB
Wolverine	Special Concern	Extended	YT NT NU BC AB SK MB ON QC NL
Wood Bison	Special Concern	Extended	YT NT BC AB MB

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society: brief overview of first 24 years

By

Margo Pybus

ACTWS

Historian

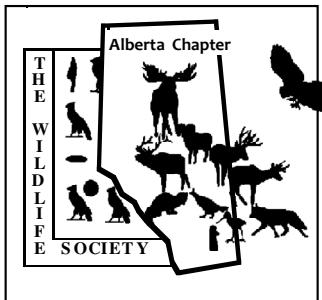
"The Alberta Chapter remains the glue that binds wildlife professionals together across the broad expanses of the province."

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society sprang to life with its charter proclamation in Banff Alberta in April 1989. Even then, the chapter showed strong promise of the collective effort, dedication, and enthusiasm that would serve members well for the years to come. In April 1989 the founding committee members not only navigated the bureaucracy of establishing the Alberta Chapter, they also organized and hosted the Annual Meeting of the Northwest Section TWS in Banff, and drew 61 charter members into the fold. Quite a feat for any neonatal organization. The inaugural success was soon followed with the first issue of the chapter newsletter, the *Alberta Wildlifer*, in November 1989. Thus the stage was set: ACTWS Bylaws, an elected Executive committee, and an ongoing newsletter provided a firm foundation and strong roots from which to grow. The Alberta Chapter is coming up on its 25th anniversary, has strength in numbers, and can boast a bounty of accomplishments. Chapter achievements to date were capped off in 2013/14 with guidance from a comprehensive Strategic Plan that will serve as a renewed foundation on which to build even stronger relationships among wildlife professionals in Alberta and beyond.

The Alberta Chapter remains the glue that binds wildlife professionals together across the broad expanses of the province. Chapter members represent a cross-section of professionals (research scientists, biologists, technicians, managers, policy makers) and students. Members are associated with universities, government agencies, consultants, various private organizations, and industry. Professionals dealing with both terrestrial and aquatic systems are represented. Students remain a primary focus as the chapter offers strength and opportunities to fledgling wildlifers. One of the major chapter achievements was to establish and provide ongoing support for student scholarships. Currently the Chapter has three annual student scholarships funded largely by auction proceeds generated at annual meetings. Additional student incentives are provided through travel grants to institutions that provide mass transit for students to attend annual ACTWS meetings, and student competitions for best oral and best poster presentation at ACTWS conferences.

Recognition of wildlife professionals and their activities also is a mainstay of the chapter. Ongoing awards for Distinguished Service to the profession and Dedicated Service to the Chapter began in 1991 and 1994, respectively. These honours were extended to include recognition for outstanding achievement awards for technical publication, popular publication, and information/outreach activities.

The Alberta Chapter remains strong as it enters its 25th year of life. It is well-founded in science, technology, outreach, and communication. It nourishes the wildlife profession and supports new generations of wildlifers. The age structure, profile, population base, and cumulative accomplishments indicate a viable trajectory for the coming years.



Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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Don't forget we are also
on Facebook



Upcoming Events

2015 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Chapter of the Wildlife Society
March 13-15, 2015
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

12th Western Black Bear Workshop
May 12-14, 2015
Canmore, AB

International Urban Wildlife Conference
May 17-20, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

Do you know of an event that should be advertised here?
If so, contact one of the editors.



Footnotes from the Editor

It's not too late to register for the ACTWS Annual Meeting.

Get the latest wildlife news, meet old and new colleagues, and have fun.

Mystery photo:

Boreal (western) toad

In Alberta, this species is considered “Sensitive”.