

The Alberta Wildlifer

President's Message

Thanks to efforts by Dave Hobson, planning for the 2012 Annual Conference of ACTWS March 16-18 in Medicine Hat is well under way - get your abstracts in! It has the potential of some excellent discussions on land use/wildlife issues and a potential field trip into the Suffield block.

We present several awards at the conference and it is not too early to start thinking about nominations for the ACTWS publication award, the William Rowan Distinguished Service and Chapter Dedicated Service Award- recognition for service is one of our important functions. The Alberta Chapter also presents annual academic student awards to promote interest and reward excellence in the field of wildlife conservation. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in wildlife management. The student awards are, ACTWS Technical Student Scholarship (Robert (Bob) K. Goddard Memorial Scholarship), ACTWS Under-

graduate Award (Ian Ross Memorial Scholarship), ACTWS Post-Graduate Award. To check details of qualifications for all these awards go to the ACTWS website, and get your nominations in. Another support to students occurs at the conference where the best student presentations and the best student poster receive a cash prize. Again- get your abstracts in, the deadline is February 12th.

We have recently formed a committee to take nominations for the executive, we are looking to fill several positions, secretary treasurer, president elect, and two board members, if you wish to nominate someone please pass their name on to one of the committee members, Dave, Hobson, Mark Edwards, John Stadt or myself and we will contact them to see if they are willing to let their name stand. The chapter runs on volunteers and our membership is full of dedicated people who are extremely

capable to serve and support the Alberta Chapter. The workload is not huge and it is very satisfying to be involved in the student and professional support that occurs.

I would like to wish you all a happy New Year and all the best for 2012.

Jim Allen



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Special points of interest:

- ☉ ACTWS Annual Meeting, March 16-18
- ☉ New estimates of bat mortalities from white-nose syndrome

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'Baydack's Banter' - Canadian Section Representative's Report

Aloha from Hawaii! I am just about to leave the Big Island and return to Manitoba after attending the 18th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Truly a remarkable Conference, and not only because of the amazing venue. But more importantly, Wildlifers took part with their strong commitment in what I consider was the best Annual Conference ever for TWS (and I have attended them all) Some of the highlights follow.

Firstly, Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Director of Conferences and Membership, Darryl Walter, that Winnipeg and the Canadian Section be the

Secondly, a true highlight of this year's Conference was the Plenary Session that focused on the need for Innovative Partnerships into the Future to ensure that wildlife and other environmental resources are sustained for future generations. After a somewhat tongue-in-cheek lead presentation comparing himself to Aldo Leopold by the 2010 Leopold Memorial Award winner Doug Johnson from the Northern Prairie Research Station in Jamestown, ND, speakers from various conservation organizations explained their mission and goals for conservation of wildlife. The summary presentation was provided by none other



that it does not happen again was inspiring indeed.

Finally, likely the best attended function at this year's Annual Conference

Highlights from the Annual Conference, Hawaii

host of the 2015 Annual Conference in October of that year. Council continues to reach out to Canadians, and this selection of a Canadian Conference site speaks volumes to their commitment. In fact, roughly every 10th Conference will be held at a Canadian site to correspond with the fact that about 10% of TWS members are from Canada. Winnipeg was 'in tough' against very strong bids from the Iowa Chapter (Des Moines) and the Colorado Chapter (Keystone), but thanks to the excellent work of Bid Chairperson Merlin Shoemsmith and his Committee, as well as Rachele Normand from Tourism Winnipeg, the Winnipeg bid came through with an incentive at the 11th hour that won the day. Great work by everyone, and I am sure that Merlin will be reaching out to members of the Canadian Section and all of our Chapters to ensure that we get the volunteers needed to put together an excellent 2015 Conference.

than our countryman Shane Mahoney, who as usual captured the attention of the audience, and likely said it all with his final statement.....'In the next few years, it really will not matter if your preference is to view wildlife or to hunt them..... The key issue is that we ALL need to work together to conserve them.....

Thirdly, several Conference events spoke to the wildlife and environmental issues that are increasingly prevalent in Hawaii. Although it may seem so distant from our everyday lives, I could not help but think that Hawaii may be serving as a microcosm of the events that are facing wildlife worldwide. Hearing Hawaiian biologists describe the extinction of so many species over their careers is something that I have not (yet) had to endure. And I hope I never will! But the resolve that those same biologists bring forward to ensuring

was the Women of Wildlife (WOW) event. The venue was so packed that people could hardly move around, but the excitement and enthusiasm in the room was infectious, and that momentum continued throughout the Conference. As many said, the WOW event was long overdue, and certainly needed in our profession. Thanks to the many Canadian women Wildlifers that responded to my request for provision of information about their careers. These summaries were highlighted in a Powerpoint presentation that ran continuously during the reception, and that will soon be posted on the TWS website. Be sure to take the time to view this assemblage of incredible stories about our outstanding colleagues.

So as always, lots of things going on and lots of important issues concerning the wildlife resource. But to come back to my opening comments, many things also do remain the same with

Baydack's Banter Continued....

our Society. The enjoyment and resolve that many of us who are members of The Wildlife Society take pride in demonstrating at all times of the year, but perhaps moreso at the Annual Conference. The camaraderie, networking, and information exchange that The Wildlife Society fosters. And probably most important, the commitment to **TWS as Our Chosen Professional and Scientific Organization** that best exemplifies what we feel is critical to maintaining the world that we love.

As Aldo Leopold so aptly described many years ago.....'There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot.' I trust that I know where each of us stand.....



Skill testing question.....

Can you name the type of bat that roosts and hibernates in this habitat?

Answer on last page



Wildlife in the Wind Speaker Series

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society (ACTWS) is sponsoring a "Wildlife in the Wind" Speaker Series as an information exchange forum for wildlife professionals, students and interested public. The focus will be on fish and wildlife research, issues and conservation initiatives. A series of one-hour noon (12:00 to 1:00) seminar talks will be held in Lethbridge during the fall and winter period (see below for details). Several of the presentations will be posted on the ACTWS website <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta/>. The "Wildlife in the Wind" Speaker Series is open to all to attend and there is no cost.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TITLE	PRESENTER
Feb 14, 2012	12:00 to 1:00	Lethbridge Public Library Community Meeting Room	Parasites and Pathogens in Alberta's Aquatic Animals: Hidden Fauna is Important	Cam Goater University of Lethbridge
Mar 13, 2012	12:00 to 1:00	Lethbridge Public Library Community Meeting Room	Nesting and Brood Rearing Ecology of Sharp-tailed Grouse on the Milk River Ridge	Shane Roersma Lethbridge College
April 10, 2012	12:00 to 1:00	Lethbridge Public Library Community Meeting Room	From Education to Action: Lessons Learned in Delivering the Cows and Fish Program	Norine Ambrose Cows and Fish

In Memoriam

Robert John "Bob" Hudson

December 16, 1946 - August
17, 2011

Bob Hudson passed away peacefully on August 17, 2011, surrounded by his loving family. Bob was an exceptional person and a deserving recipient of our Chapter's William Rowan Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats in Alberta and beyond.

Bob was born and raised in Hamiota, Manitoba, the second of four children. His father, 'Doc Ed', was a distinguished rural physician, his mother a nurse. Both of Bob's advanced degrees-B.Sc. in Range Management (1967) and Ph.D in Animal Science (1971)-were completed at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Following his graduate research on immunology of lungworm infections of bighorn sheep, Bob did a postdoc (reindeer range assessment) at the Institute of Ecological Botany, Uppsala, Sweden. He then was named Assistant Professor at UBC (3 years) before moving to the University of Alberta (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, now Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences [ALES]) in 1974 where he established a long-term and stellar program in Wildlife Productivity and Management. In the mid-to-late 1970s, Bob became interested in rangeland monitoring, management of elephants and rhinos and issues of wildlife production policy and research in Kenya, doing a sabbatical there from 1980-1981. It was not all work for Bob while in Kenya, as he met the love of his life there, Yasmin, whom he married in 1981. Daughters Suraya and



Tasreen were born in 1986 and 1992; Bob's family was truly the center of his life.

Bob had a brilliant mind, with breadth and depth, and became an international leader in several research areas including multi-species grazing systems, bioenergetics of wild herbivores, system dynamics and more recently, sustainability science. He established the Ministik Wildlife Research Station (MWRS) in 1977 in a rural aspen parklands setting east of Edmonton where he and graduate students did some brilliant research (e.g., classic studies of bioenergetics) using captive bison, wapiti, mule and white-tailed deer and moose as study animals. Along the way he authored two

two books, edited eight books, many book chapters and extension articles, and over 160 peer-reviewed scientific articles.

While Bob was doing his thing at MWRS, Elk Island National Park and other sites in Western Canada, Kenya, India (sabbatical), Korea, Malaysia, China, South America, etc, his graduate students (n=55) were becoming leaders in Canada's north, Western Canada, Africa, China and elsewhere. These students are a crucial part of Bob's legacy, carrying forward his positive and visionary approaches, always thinking about what is to come or what might be with some critical, synthetic thought. He was the model of how to

In Memoriam, con't

escape current dogma and advance toward new paradigms.

Bob was dedicated to collaboration and service. As one example, he was seriously ill in recent years yet in 2010 published a 300 page e-book, edited a 400 page book and co-authored a paper. Also, during his illnesses, he was Associate Dean International (ALES), Founding Director, Alberta Veterinary Research Institute, Acting Director, Canadian Circumpolar Institute and Chair, University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee. During the same time he was Theme Editor UNESCO Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems, Editor and Chief Open Conservation Biology Journal, Associate Editor Journal of Wildlife Management, and on the Editorial Board and Advisory Board of several journals and research centres.

As members of the wildlife biology profession, we recognize and celebrate the importance of gathering to share concepts, concerns and comradery. Such goals remain the driving principles behind the formation and existence of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society. In such a setting we seek guidance from those rare individuals whose vision shines light into the murky grey of contemporary wildlife management issues. Such a brilliant light was Bob Hudson.

Bill Samuel, Brad Stelfox and Lee Foote

2012 ACTWS Annual Meeting

When: March 16-18, 2012

Where: Medicine Hat Lodge

Information about registration and the call for abstracts are on the website. Dates you should know:

- Earlybird registration—Jan 31
- Award nominations—Feb 1
- Abstracts for papers and posters—Feb 12 (\$100 prizes for best student paper and best student poster)
- Student scholarship applications—March 4

* * * *

Interested in helping with organizing the meeting? Contact Dave Hobson, dave.hobson@gov.ab.ca

Have any items to donate to the auction? Contact Hugh Wollis, hugh.wollis@gov.ab.ca

Update on White-nose Syndrome—press release January 17

North American bat death toll exceeds 5.5 million from white-nose syndrome

On the verge of another season of winter hibernating bat surveys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists and partners estimate that at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats have now died from white-nose syndrome. Biologists expect the disease to continue to spread.

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is decimating bat populations across eastern North America, with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at many sites. First documented in New York in 2006, the disease has spread quickly into 16 states and four Canadian provinces. Bats with WNS exhibit unusual behavior during cold winter months, including flying outside during the day and clustering near the entrances of caves and mines where they hibernate. Bats have been found sick and dying in unprecedented numbers near these hibernacula.

"This startling new information illustrates the severity of the threat that white-nose syndrome poses for bats, as well as the scope of the problem facing our nation. Bats provide tremendous value to the U.S. economy as natural pest control for American farms and forests every year, while playing an essential role in helping to control insects that can spread disease to people," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "We are working closely with our partners to understand the spread of this deadly disease and minimize its impacts to affected bat species."

Estimating the total number of bat deaths has been a difficult challenge for biologists. Although consistent population counts for federally listed endangered bats, like the Indiana bat, have been a priority for state and federal biologists, establishing population counts of once "common" bat species, like little brown bats, was historically not the primary focus of seasonal bat population counts.

"White-nose syndrome has spread quickly through bat populations in eastern North America, and has caused significant mortality in many colonies," said National WNS Coordinator, Dr. Jeremy Coleman, "Many bats were lost before we were able to establish pre-white-nose syndrome population estimates."

More than 140 partners, including tribal, state and federal biologists and bat researchers convened in Carlisle, Pennsylvania for the 2012 Northeast Bat Working Group (NEBWG) meeting last week to discuss challenges 2 of 2 facing bat research, management and conservation. Coordinating with wildlife officials in Canada, the group discussed

population-level impacts to hibernating bats and developed the estimate of bats lost to WNS.

In addition to the lack of population data for many bat species, there has also been a lack of consistency in how bat population data was reported among agencies.

"...at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats have now died from white-nose syndrome."

As part of the May 2011 national WNS response plan, which was developed by the Service in partnership with a team of federal, state, tribal, and NGO scientists, agencies are addressing this by establishing methods for consistent data collection.

The National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats provides a framework for the coordination and management of the national WNS investigation response, and the Service leads an extensive network of partners in implementing the plan.

The Service serves as the primary resource for up-to-date information and recommendations for all partners, such as important decontamination protocols for cave researchers and visitors and a cave access advisory that requests a voluntary moratorium on activities in caves in affected states to minimize the potential spread of WNS.

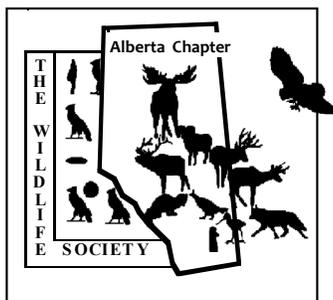
In addition to developing science-based protocols and guidance for land management agencies and other partners to minimize the spread of WNS, the Service has funded numerous research projects to support and assess management recommendations and improve our basic understanding of the dynamics of the disease.

For more information about white-nose syndrome, visit www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome.



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Upcoming Events

Urban Wildlife: Challenges and Management
<http://www.cmiae.org/Events/#UrbanWildlife>
April 18-19, 2012
Rocky Mountain Prestige Inn, Cranbrook BC

ASPB 2012 Conference and Tradeshow
April 18-19, 2012
Hyatt Regency, Calgary, AB
<http://www.aspb.ab.ca/events/2012-aspb-conference>

Society for Conservation Biology
North American Congress for Conservation Biology
Bridging the Gap: Connecting people, nature, and climate
Oakland California
July 15-18 2012
<http://www.scbnacongress.org/>

ACTWS—March 16-18, 2012—Medicine Hat

Footnotes from the Editor

Call for research!

Do you have some new research or research updates that you would like to share? Please send them to me for posting in the newsletter and get the word out. Let's keep each other up to date with what's happening with the latest wildlife news.

Do you have any outreach suggestions or success stories?

Do you have any events or jobs to advertise?

Please send them to me for posting in the newsletter. Photos are welcome. Anything in particular that you would like to see in your ACTWS newsletter? Let me know!

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Answer from page 3:

Western small-footed bat



- Species of special concern in Alberta
- Roosts in cracks in cliffs and rocky outcrops
- Forages around cottonwood galleries
- In Alberta, only found in south-east, in the badlands and dry river valleys