

# THE ALBERTA WILDLIFER

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 1, 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Alberta and Canadian Section conference 2013
- New item: interview with a Biologist
- Sharp-tailed grouse habitat in central AB

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## ACTWS President's Report

Dave Hobson

As I sit here in my Edson office and look out my window, I'm seeing one of the first snowfalls of the season. In September, for a vacation, I drove up the Cassier Highway into the Yukon and down the Alaska Highway. The autumn colours

matic results; I sincerely believe that the Chapter, through Blair's outstanding work, has made a difference for wildlife conservation in Alberta. It is to my regret that Blair has stepped down from the role of

highlighting the history behind the 'North American Model' of wildlife conservation, probably the most successful conservation model in the world. If you haven't received a copy, find someone who has it and watch

***...Blair has stepped down from the role of Chair of the Conservation Committee. He will be sorely missed but I hope that I will still see him at the annual conferences for years to come.***

were spectacular. If you want to see roadside wildlife, travel the Alaska Highway between Watson Lake and the Stone Mountain Provincial Park in BC. Along this stretch I saw 3 grizzlies (sow and 2 yearlings living dangerously), about 90 bison, several caribou and stone sheep. They remind me of the reasons I got into this career. Concern with conservation of wildlife and the habitats they depend on is the reason most of us, I suspect, have chosen this career. Certainly this must have been the driving motivation behind Blair Rippin's career and his founding membership in the Alberta Chapter. Well into his retirement, he has been the very active Chair of the Chapter's Conservation Committee. Although it's often difficult to see the results of the Chapter's advocacy, such work rarely produces immediate and dra-

Chair of the Conservation Committee. He will be sorely missed but I hope that I will still see him at the annual conferences for years to come.

Ken Crutchfield, with the unanimous approval of the Executive, has agreed to step up and take on the demanding role of Conservation Chair. Knowing his passion, experience and background, I have no doubt that he will successfully follow in Blair's footsteps. Thanks for this Ken.

For those of you who are members of The Wildlife Society parent organisation, you will have received the recent issue of 'The Wildlife Professional'. It celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization and includes a DVD featuring Canada's own Shane Mahoney

it. If you haven't had the luck to listen to Shane in person, he's an impressive communicator (think of Lorne Fitch with a light Newfie accent, and, like Lorne, is the very image of Moses coming down from the mountain).

Stay warm for the coming winter.

Dave



**Arthur R. Rodgers**

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or to register for the  
CSTWS Electronic  
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The Electronic Edu-  
cation Series is spon-  
sored by the Ontario  
Ministry of Natural  
Resources, Centre for  
Northern Forest Eco-  
system Research,  
Thunder Bay, On-  
tario.



# Canadian Section Update

## New Canadian Section Representative

Stay tuned for updates from Art Rodgers, the newly elected Canadian Section Representative. Art takes the reins from Rick Baydack who was voted in as vice-president of TWS.

## The 2012/2013 Electronic Education Series Begins November 2

The first of a series of 1 hour presentation of the series will be given by Dr. Eric B. (Rick) Taylor, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia and is titled: **Changes to the Fisheries Act: Implications for Fishes and Biodiversity Conservation**

The Electronic Education Series is free to CSTWS members. Non-members who sit in on the presentations are encouraged to support the series by joining the CSTWS (annual membership is \$10) at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Canada/>

### November 2, 2012

Dr. Eric B. (Rick) Taylor, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia

**Changes to the Fisheries Act: Implications for Fishes and Biodiversity Conservation**

### November 23, 2012

Joëlle Taillon, Département de biologie et Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval

**A Challenge for Conservation: Spatio-Temporal Changes in the Use of Calving Grounds by Migratory Caribou"**

### January 25, 2013

Dr. Mark S. Boyce, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta

**Resource Selection Functions**

### February 15, 2012

Dr. C. Scott Findlay, Department of Biology & Institute of the Environment, University of Ottawa

**Canada's Species at Risk Act, 10 Years Later**

### March 23, 2012

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Nudds, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph

**Adaptive Management**

## The ACTWS, Species at Risk, and Beer - Update!!!

The art submission deadline to get your species at risk art on a beer bottle has been extended to November 15th. For more information see the ACTWS website:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/alberta/>

# Why Care About a Cutthroat by Lorne Fitch, P. Biol.

Have you ever touched a cutthroat trout? If you have, you're lucky as there are very few of this native species left in Alberta. They are cool to the touch, wet and slippery. What you touch isn't just a fish; it's a living, wriggling history book, the embodiment of a landscape and a study in adaptability and resilience.

Call cutthroats one of the early pioneers, a species superbly adapted to their adopted world. Cutthroat trout saw the last of the continental glaciers, those kilometer thick blocks of ice that shaped most of Alberta. These fish, early visitors to what would become Alberta, saw a raw land transformed and adapted to those changes.

***“Cutthroat trout are a part, a feature of a watershed and an indicator of landscape health.”***

What cutthroat have done is rolled the storms, the floods, the droughts, the changes in water temperature, the good and the bad- the natural variability of their world- into their genetic material as a mechanism for survival. What they have not adapted to, cannot adapt to, are the speed and magnitude of changes we brought to their world in a period of time as short as a human life.

Only a handful of mostly isolated populations survive today. Contrast that image with the reality at one time not so long ago, cutthroats swam from the headwaters of the Oldman and Bow rivers as far downstream as the cities of Lethbridge and Calgary.

Cutthroat trout evolved to fit a particular environmental context, a place in the watersheds of the Oldman and Bow rivers. Their beauty is derived from that fitness. Seeing the flash of a cutthroat in a crystal clear stream, a splash of liquid sunshine, is to experience a natural piece of art. That scene, with all of the intricacy and mystery of an interconnected system, is as valuable as a piece of art by Renoir or Picasso and as irreplaceable.

Cutthroat trout are a part, a feature of a watershed and an indicator of landscape health. The clarity of the medium cutthroat swim in should jog our sensibilities and remind us of the source of our drinking water. Having cutthroat occupy these watersheds is the gold seal of water quality. The ripples that extend outward from a pebble dropped in a stream containing cutthroat inevitably find us.

But it's just a fish; why should we care about cutthroat trout?

Nostalgia is not the driving force behind the sentiment to preserve populations of cutthroat trout. It is rather an expression and an acknowledgement of a species with a best fit for life in some of Alberta's waters, tested as cutthroat have been in the crucible of their habitats for at least 10,000 years.

This fish has been entrusted to our care, not for our exclusive use and disposal but to ensure viable populations are passed on, unimpaired, for subsequent generations. It would be a blot on our record as stewards of shared resources to allow a species like cutthroat trout to disappear through apathy, igno-

rance, inaction or greed.

There are also elements of practicality, sensibility, compassion and foresight in protecting cutthroat, to ensure they don't slip through our fingers and out of our consciousness. We would no more discard our history books, unravel the threads on a prized tapestry, or weaken a bridge than we would allow a reminder, an indicator of iconic landscapes, connections with nature or essential ecosystem services to disappear.

If we can protect some places for the cutthroat and allow recovery of populations to more robust levels, the intended effects will benefit other species. It may well be that our own species will need these healthy watersheds with natural expressions of biodiversity. It truly needs them now!

*Lorne Fitch is a Professional Biologist, a retired Fish and Wildlife Biologist and an Adjunct Professor with the University of Calgary*



Many thanks to Blair Rippin for all his hard work as the Conservation Committee Chair!

**BILL 202  
PUBLIC LANDS  
(GRASSLANDS  
PRESERVATION)  
AMENDMENT  
ACT, 2012**

[http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR\\_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature\\_28/session\\_1/2012\\_0523\\_bill-202.pdf](http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_28/session_1/2012_0523_bill-202.pdf)

“



## Conservation Committee Update

After representing the ACTWS on many important issues, Blair Rippin has decided to step down as the Conservation Committee Chair. Many thanks to Blair for all his hard work over the years. Ken Crutchfield has graciously volunteered to take over as chair. One of the first issues the committee will look at with Ken at the helm is Bill 202, The Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act.

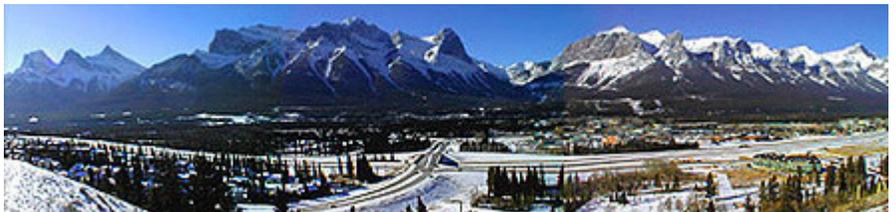
## Wildlife in the Wind Speakers Series

Come join natural science professionals, students and the public to learn more about fish and wildlife research, conservation issues and the ecology of southern Alberta. The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society (ACTWS) is again sponsoring the popular “Wildlife in the Wind” Speaker Series to bring to you the interesting, fascinating and important topics in natural history. You will meet and hear from key individuals in the biological community. A series of one-hour talks will be held in Lethbridge during the fall and winter period (see below for details). The “Wildlife in the Wind” Speaker Series is open to all to attend and there is no cost. You will not be disappointed!

[http://joomla.wildlife.org/alberta/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=180&Itemid=325](http://joomla.wildlife.org/alberta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=180&Itemid=325)

### *Mark Your Calendars!!*

**Joint Annual Meetings of the  
Canadian Section and Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife  
Society  
March 8-10 2013 - Canmore, Alberta**



***Save Those Dates!!***

# Provincial Grazing Reserves; the last stronghold for Sharp-tailed Grouse outside of the Prairie-Parkland?

by Curtis Stambaugh

Sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) (STGR) are classified as a sensitive species in Alberta. Although STGR are considered relatively common and widespread in the south, throughout central Alberta populations appear to be declining and farming intensification has decreased habitat availability. STGR in Alberta are also considered a game species which can be legally harvested at designated times of the year, although no comprehensive population estimates exist in Alberta. However, historical records of lek site (dancing grounds) locations and occupancy do exist to varying degrees throughout the province and these records indicate a significant reduction (50-86%) in occupancy through the central regions (Alberta Fish and Wildlife, unpublished data, 2011). As a precautionary measure in 2011, wildlife biologists with Alberta Fish and Wildlife decided to close the sport hunting season on STGR throughout much of central Alberta.

Currently, many of the existing known leks throughout central and northern Alberta are found within Provincial Grazing Reserves (PGR). However, there may be other leks unknown to Fish and Wildlife, especially on private lands. Regardless, there is little reason to believe that large numbers of this species still persist for long periods of time within the heavily cultivated matrix of agricultural land within this region of the province. Since this species favours open spaces that contain the right mixture of vertical and horizontal vegetation cover, in the form of grasses and shrubs, agronomical producing crops fail to reproduce the required habitat features, at least in the early spring during nest building and concealment.



**Biologists plying their trade...processing the catch of the day!**



**Two hens caught in the funneled walk-in trap.**

With few exceptions, the only locations where leks are currently being found are within small parcels of privately owned, low to moderately grazed cattle pastures and PGRs. Our data also suggest that even within PGRs, many historical leks are no longer occupied. With a shift from family farms to agribusinesses, these once small and numerous pastures, with ample spring carry-over grass and shrub cover, have given way to the giant producers with hundreds of cattle looking to maximize grazing output of the land. The result is not the formally abundant habitat for STGR, and other wildlife species, but an over grazed golf-course style landscape.

Do PGRs hold the answer to maintaining STGR populations in areas where they were once abundant throughout their range? What I do know is that PGRs are relatively large pieces of real estate, spread throughout central and northern Alberta, Crown owned land, and managed and regulated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD). Many of the PGRs are also apparently being over utilized in the same fashion previously described, therefore other resource values which are to be inherently balanced into the management of these lands may not be receiving as much attention as the cattle. Working with the grazing associations that manage the reserves and with other ESRD departments, should allow for the expedient pulling of management levers that impact all values on the landscape.

What began as an assessment into the potential impact on STGR from a large road being proposed to haul gravel through

*Continued on page 6*

## Research Opportunity

*“...I’d like to solicit the interest in those academics and budding young students still looking for that interesting project to pump their adrenaline!”*

# Provincial Grazing Reserves...continued...

the Connor Creek PGR, grew in scope to try and encompass the applied management needs of the Wildlife Management Branch. In the spring of 2011, on a shoestring budget, a few of us biologists managed to capture and radio-collar 16 STGR hens from two separate leks within Connor Creek PGR. Originally designed to acquire before-after data on STGR nesting and brood-rearing selection, with respect to the proposed road, the data collected also has merit to address some key concerns with grazing management in general.

Connor Creek PGR happens to be a wonderful microcosm to study STGR in central Alberta. The PGR is roughly 132 km<sup>2</sup> and currently contains a minimum of 10 active leks evenly dispersed throughout the various paddocks. By comparison, within the matrix of agriculture and development surrounding Connor Creek, only 3 known active leks exist within a 50km radius. Currently, only the Wanham PGR near Peace River contains a comparable density of active lek sites. Ironically, Connor Creek’s relatively “intact” and balanced ecological state is likely attributed to the association only grazing roughly a third of its maximum stocking rate of 10000 animals; a stark contrast to some PGRs. The result is arguably the best STGR habitat north of Edmonton.



**Wonderfully concealed nest and freshly hatched eggs of Hen F-F10.**

Plans are to build on the work started last spring by increasing our sample size, adding lightweight GPS data loggers to some birds, and apply different

size, adding lightweight GPS data loggers to some birds, and apply different “treatments” to paddocks through greater collaboration with the grazing association and ESRDs forestry division. Optimally, treatments would be in the form of different stocking rates and timing and also the prescription of fire. Over the past few years, Connor Creek has resorted to increasingly liberal herbicide applications to control the encroachment of aspen and willow within pastures as a result of the low stocking rates.

As a means to reduce the use of herbicide, our forestry division has also got involved to do prescribed burning within the PGR to reduce woody vegetation encroachment, increase grass production, but also as a mechanism to train fire fighters within a controlled setting. The first prescribed burn took place last spring and agrologists with ESRD have established vegetation monitoring plots to monitor vegetative achievements over time. Meanwhile, our preliminary data gathered from STGR indicates this burned area was quickly utilized by radio-collared hens, including one hen choosing to re-nest there (46 days post-burn) after her first nest was predated.

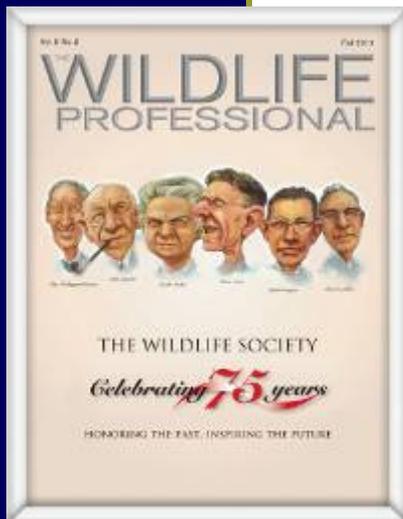
The knowledge gained from this small partnership is important to better manage a common landscape with competing interests and to be applied at other PGRs in need of appropriate balance. However, if there is one thing that’s certain, research takes an enormous amount of time if it is to be conducted properly. Since Fish and Wildlife offices throughout the province are precariously under staffed, and our current business model doesn’t allow for area biologists to regularly conduct high intensity research programs, help with this project is greatly needed. So, through means of this article, I’d like to solicit the interest of a graduate student who could take ownership of this initiative. Since graduate students need academic supervisors, and you know who you are, by means of this article I’d like to solicit the interest in those academics and budding young students still looking for that interesting project to pump their adrenaline!

[Curtis.stambaugh@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Curtis.stambaugh@gov.ab.ca)

# Recently Published

The Wildlife Professional Fall Edition, Celebrating 75 years of TWS is now in print:

<http://news.wildlife.org/twp/2012-fall/the-wildlife-professional-fall-2012-table-of-contents/>



## Ian McTaggart-Cowan

### *The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist*

by Ronald D. Jakimchuk, R. Wayne Campbell and Dennis A. Demarchi

This memorial volume is nearing completion and will be published in association with the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, 3825 Cadboro Bay Road, PO Box 55053, Victoria, BC. V8N 6L8. Please see <http://www.wildlifebc.org/> for updates and availability.

A Forthcoming book by Ronald D. Jakimchuk, R. Wayne Campbell and Dennis A. Demarchi

### Ian McTaggart-Cowan

*The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist*



The history of zoological discovery in British Columbia, and parts of the Rocky Mountains of western Alberta, is closely linked with Ian McTaggart-Cowan, one of Canada's foremost and best-known zoologists and conservationists. Dr. Cowan's life spanned the golden age of biological exploration and linked him with some of the important early collectors and naturalists whose specimens and observations revealed the distribution of birds and mammals in the province during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ian was a pioneer among pioneers, in a career that began as a summer student on collecting trips in the field and led to an academic career as professor of zoology, department head, and dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia.

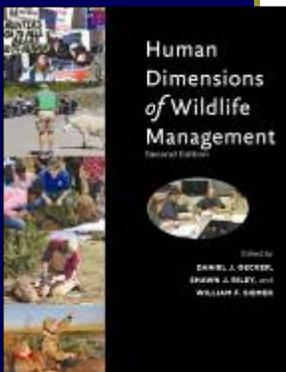
*The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist* is primarily an appreciation of Ian and his many accomplishments. The book is a celebration of a remarkable man's life and his numerous roles and adventures. It was originally designed to be a comprehensive compilation of his lifetime publications and intended as a surprise 100<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to be presented to Ian on the occasion of his centennial birthday celebration on June 25, 2010 at Government House in Victoria. However, Ian passed away 61 days before that occasion was to be held.

Subsequently, our volume evolved and expanded in scope both as a tribute to Ian, and to preserve his legacy as an educator, researcher, and conservationist. The heart of the tribute consists of over 100 recollections from former students, colleagues, and friends in a section on their memories of association with Ian. These range from the amusing to the poignant, and reveal many facets of his life and personal qualities.

The book is a valuable documentation of the history and evolution of biological discovery and research in British Columbia, and the emergence of a conservation ethic. It is illustrated with hundreds of black-and-white and colour photographs including images of early family life, students and colleagues, and wildlife.

This memorial volume is nearing completion. It has been enhanced by the diligent peer-review of Dr. Alton Harestad, Peter Ormundsen, and Dr. Spencer Sealy, all University of British Columbia graduates in zoology. The book has been a voluntary undertaking by the authors and reviewers since its inception in February, 2010 and will be published in association with the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, 3825 Cadboro Bay Road, PO Box 55053, Victoria, BC. V8N 6L8.

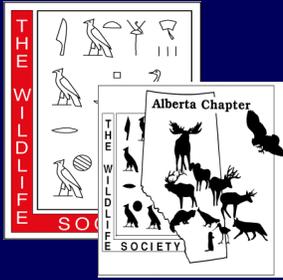
Please see [www.wildlifebc.org](http://www.wildlifebc.org/) for updates and availability.



## Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management, second edition

edited by Daniel J. Decker, Shawn J. Riley, and William F. Siemer

<http://wildlife.org/publications/special-publications/human-dimensions>



**Workshop by  
Lorne Fitch**  
*Talking to People: making  
presentations effective,  
memorable and enjoyable*

This 1-day workshop is for people in natural resource management who need to communicate more effectively with the public, industry and conservation groups. It is interactive and builds on the collective experience of the audience and the instructor. Participants will leave the workshop with a greater skill set to develop and deliver presentations. Includes coffee breaks and course materials. Limited enrollment.

**8 March 2013**  
Cost: \$125

**Family Fun in the  
Mountains**

Canmore Geoscience  
Center  
Canmore Nordic Center  
Ski Norquay  
Snowy Owl Dog Sled  
Tours  
Canadian Rockies Adventure  
Centre  
Alpine Helicopter Trips

## First Announcement

# Joint Annual Meeting of the Canadian Section and Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**8-10 March 2013**  
Canmore, AB

### PLENEARY SESSION

#### Citizen Science:

## Can it lead to more with less in today's economy?

*What is it? When do citizens invest themselves in science? What are the trade-offs in using citizen science? What are your real investments and risks? How does the public view citizen science? Successful and unsuccessful examples across jurisdictions.*

### Meeting Schedule

**Friday, 8 March 2013**  
Public Speaking Workshop  
Student Conclave  
Second Canadian Quiz Bowl

**Saturday, 9 March 2013**  
First Annual Fun Ski  
Plenary Session & Open Paper Sessions  
Awards Banquet & Auction  
Dancing Soiree

**Sunday, 10 March 2013**  
Business Meetings  
Open Paper Sessions  
Student Awards

### Call for papers coming soon!

For more details see CS or ACTWS websites:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/alberta/> or <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Canada/>



### Radisson Hotel and Conference Center Canmore

[www.radisson.com/reservation/itineraryEntrance.do?pacLink=Y&promoCode=ABWILD&hotelCode=ABCANMOR](http://www.radisson.com/reservation/itineraryEntrance.do?pacLink=Y&promoCode=ABWILD&hotelCode=ABCANMOR)

**Reservations: (800) 967-9033 US/Canada Toll-free**

# Interview with a Biologist - Lorne Fitch

**Lisa Wilkinson recently had the opportunity to interview Lorne Fitch, recipient of the 2012 William Rowan Distinguished Service Award....**

(Pictured here with Margo Pybus)



**LW:** Where did you go to school?

**LF:** I attended the University of Calgary where I obtained my BSc.

**LW:** Could you give us a brief overview of your career?

**LF:** I began my "apprenticeship" as a "Biological Assistant" in 1971 in the old Red Deer Region of the Fish and Wildlife Division and worked for 3 summers (and for many months during the fall and winter) for both Fisheries and Wildlife. I had a succession of wage positions for the next couple of years and landed a permanent fisheries biologist job in Lethbridge in 1976.

Following one of many interminable reorganizations my fisheries position was abolished and I successfully landed the Regional Habitat Biologist position for the Southern Region in 1981. There I stayed until the forces of evil axed the Habitat Branch in 1993. I spent a couple of years in purgatory as a "Special Projects Biologist" until I was encouraged to take the Regional Fisheries Biologist position to protect me from the Deputy Minister of the day. Cows and Fish began in those years of being sidelined and I had the equivalent of two full time jobs from 1996 to 1999, building the riparian program and handling the fisheries position for southern Alberta. In 1999 when it became evident this was untenable I was seconded to

Cows and Fish, a non-government initiative, as the Provincial Riparian Specialist. There I happily stayed until 2006 when I retired from government, but not from work in this field.

**LW:** What have some of the highlights of your career been?

**LF:** The rare opportunity to see Alberta, most of its nooks and crannies, on someone else's nickel. To work on something rewarding with people who shared the same vision and passion. To have had exceptional mentors and then to be able to mentor younger biologists. To have participated in the endless task of creating an ecologically literate constituency in Alberta.

**LW:** What have been the biggest changes to the field of biology that you've observed during your career?

**LF:** A gender shift that has added an important and valuable dimension and perspective to organizational decision making. A marked change in biologists with a broader ecological background, coupled with a shift from species management to acknowledging we need to work at the appropriate landscape scale, as well as a substantial growth in the numbers of private sector biologists.

**LW:** Do you have any predictions for future challenges and/or rewards in this field?

**LF:** Challenges include the creeping incrementalism of cumulative effects, the perversity of shifting benchmarks, the maddening political/bureaucratic/corporate interference (including seemingly endless reorganization in Fish and Wildlife) and maintaining focus on landscape integrity. Alternately you have some impressive tools of science that were unavailable through most of my career. They are at your disposal to paint an honest picture of landscape issues, tell a compelling story about wild critters, engage people in meaningful dialogue about trends and thresholds and change attitudes about choices to

be made if Alberta is to retain some of its wild heritage.

**LW:** Do you have any advice for students and young biologists starting their careers?

**LF:** Being a biologist is a profession, maybe more of a calling than a job. It is inherently frustrating, lacks political support, deals with an ecologically ignorant electorate and the forces of economic development see you as the enemy or, at least, as an impediment. Like old age it is not for sissies. And yet, with all that arrayed against you, your talents, persistence, communication skills and passion will create a career that, in the end, you will look back at and have no regrets.

**LW:** Who were your mentors or other notable people you admire?

**LF:** Aldo Leopold for his wisdom and articulate writing; Rachel Carson for her courage and persistence; and, Wendell Berry for his philosophy and perspective. Carl Hunt for his tenacity.

**LW:** You've been "retired" since 2006, but what keeps you busy these days?

**LF:** I still work part time for Cows and Fish. I sit on the boards of 5 provincial or national conservation organizations. I teach communication skills to resource professionals and mentor several younger biologists. Because there are several conservation issues in Alberta that need a light shone on them, I write on these issues in the hopes this creates awareness and the motivation for change.

**LW:** Wow, that doesn't sound like you are retired! I have one last question. Do you have a favourite place to visit in Alberta?

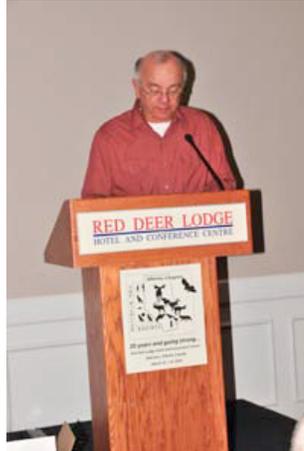
**LF:** The grasslands, because of their scale they humble us small humans.

# CANADIAN SECTION AWARD

## TWS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – 2012

### Dr. William M. Samuel

This year The Wildlife Society introduced a new Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have worked throughout their careers in a variety of ways to further the mission of the Society but have not been previously recognized by TWS internationally. It is based on membership longevity and TWS service at the local level. It is intended for someone who is/was “always there” and could be counted on to serve the Chapters, Sections, Working Groups, or international organization. This award is unique because, although it is a parent society award, the Sections receive the nominations and select the recipient for their Section. The Distinguished Service Awards will be presented for the first time during the TWS 75th Anniversary conference in Portland, Oregon, in October.



Dr. Bill Samuel

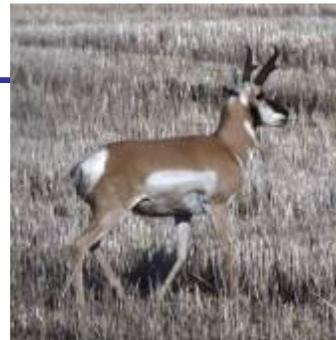
The Canadian Section of TWS has selected **Dr. William (Bill) M. Samuel** to be our choice as one of the first recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. Bill retired from the University of Alberta in 2004 after over 30 years of service and is now Professor Emeritus. Bill became a member of The Wildlife Society in 1964 and remained a member at the parent level for 35 years. Like many Canadians, Bill focused his efforts locally to build up TWS Canadian Section in Canada where it has until more recently been in its infancy as a national organization. Nonetheless he is deserving of this award in recognition of his important influence on TWS’ leap forward in Canada and particularly in Alberta.

*Excerpt from The Canadian Chapter of the Wildlife Society Newsletter, August 2012.*

## Bits and Bites

### TWS News Feed

Can't get enough of late breaking wildlife news? Want to see if Alberta makes the international wildlife news scene? Check out TWS news centre for weekly wildlife news updates and policy news: <http://news.wildlife.org/>



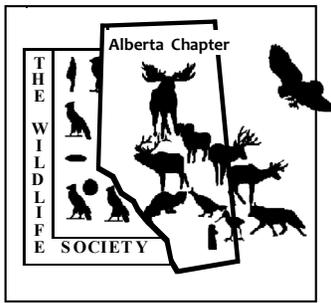
**Pronghorn  
Antelope**



### Mystery Photo

Can you identify the species of bird this nest belongs to?

Answer on last page.



## Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society

The Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
P.O. Box 4990  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5G8

### President

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<http://joomla.wildlife.org/Alberta/>

Don't forget we are also  
on Facebook



## Upcoming Events

**The Natural Resources Communication Workshop**  
California State University, Chico - January 7-11, 2013.  
[jhooper@csuchico.edu](mailto:jhooper@csuchico.edu)

### Prairie Conservation Forum Conference

Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum &  
Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

### Engaging People in Conservation

Red Deer, AB – February 19-22, 2013  
<http://www.pcsc.ca/>

### ACTWS/CSTWS Joint Conference

Canmore, AB, March 8-10, 2013

**26th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)** Baltimore, MD USA - July 21-25, 2013

<http://www.conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2013>

## Mark Your Calendars!!

### Joint Annual Meetings of the

Canadian Section and Alberta Chapter of The  
Wildlife Society

March 8-10 2013 - Canmore, Alberta



The Canadian Section and Alberta Chapter of TWS will have a joint annual meeting in 2013 in beautiful Canmore, AB at the Radisson Hotel. Website information will be available in September and call for papers in early November 2012.

## Footnotes from the Editor



### We want your feedback!

Let us know what you think. What would you like to see?

Thanks to all of the contributors to this is edition of the Alberta Wildlifer!

### Newsletter articles needed

Please share your research and wildlife news with your peers by submitting an article to the ACTWS newsletter, published quarterly and read by many.

### Mystery photo:

**American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Nest**