



The Alaskan Wildlifer

Newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society

November 2002

Message from the President

By: Doug Larsen

It is time to begin planning for our annual TWS meeting. As you know, this meeting rotates annually between Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau, and this year is being hosted in Juneau. One of my personal goals as President is to increase the attendance and participation at these meetings by biologists from across the state. I feel one of the keys to doing that is to offer informative technical sessions that will attract and benefit our members. It also requires the positive support of agency heads and supervisors to support their biologists in preparing for and traveling to the conference. The Executive Committee and I will be working closely with Chapter members to secure this support, and help plan a conference that attracts wide participation.

Because planning a conference and preparing papers and posters takes time, I am proposing that we hold the conference during early to mid April, 2003. We need to begin now to attract commitments for a variety of papers and posters representing a broad array of wildlife work from across the state, and across agencies and organizations. This can be a wonderful opportunity not only to learn about the variety of work being done and the results being generated, but also to share new ideas and perspectives among people from different areas who share similar conservation interests and concerns. This sharing can result in new and improved approaches to the way we do business and to the ultimate success of our collective conservation efforts.

In the coming weeks, I will be soliciting volunteers to serve on a conference steering committee to begin formulating the details of the gathering and to initiate a call for papers. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at doug_larsen@fishgame.state.ak.us if you are willing to assist with hosting the conference.

With willing and enthusiastic participation from our membership, I'm confident that we can make an Alaska Chapter conference a valuable and enjoyable experience for all. Let's together seize this opportunity to combine our incredible biological knowledge and expertise in a connected way that strengthens and defines the Chapter as a positive and respected player in the conservation of Alaska's wildlife!

News from the North

By Tom Paragi-Northern Representative

The National Park Service (Gates of the Arctic/Yukon-Charley) and ADF&G have several cooperative projects in the works: Field work was completed with the caribou overflight study on the Fortymile herd using directed noise events (provided by the U.S. Air Force with variety of aircraft) during May 2002. Video review and data analysis are underway to determine caribou responses during calving and post-calving periods. Moose surveys for the upper Kobuk drainage and Yukon-Charley Rivers (YUCH) will begin in November if weather cooperates, and videography techniques are being refined for assessment of furbearer populations this winter at YUCH. More transect surveys for brown bears will be done next June, and further collaring of Central Arctic caribou is planned.

The BLM's Draft Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for oil and gas lease sales in the northwest portion of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A; 8.9 million acres) will be available for public review and comment in mid-January 2003. The Arctic (NPR-A) Team of the BLM's Northern Field

Office in Fairbanks is currently interviewing to fill a second wildlife biologist position. They hope to have the successful candidate on board by late January or early February 2003.

Bob Ritchie of ABR, Inc. asked that Chapter members think about how we can promote sustainability in our research. The goal of the thought process should be a list we can share of various ways that individuals can address sustainability on a daily basis. Starter examples include using energy efficient survey techniques (e.g., R44 helicopter vs. turbine ships, recycling computers, donating equipment to 3rd world researchers). Broader categories include “reducing waste,” challenging ourselves to use less in terms of resources and think more of 'food' than waste, etc. Bob is drafting a starter list, but please submit ideas to tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us for further compiling. We should strive to post the list-in-progress on our Chapter website by this spring, particularly those techniques unique to Alaskan research. Perhaps we can also submit the list to the TWS “Working Group for the Steady State Economy.”

Personnel changes—**Craig Gardner** transferred from being Tok Area biologist with ADF&G to working in the Fairbanks regional office on statewide planning for reintroduction of wood bison to Alaska. **Nikki Guldager**, a technician for NPS in Fairbanks, was hired as the wildlife biologist for Gates of the Arctic and Yukon Charley to fill the void after Shelli Swanson moved south. **Becky Kelleyhouse** was hired as the assistant area biologist for ADF&G in Glennallen. She replaced **Brad Scotton**, who left Glennallen to become a supervisory wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge Complex in Galena. **Steve Kendall** joined the staff of Arctic NWR as the refuge bird biologist. Steve was formerly a permit biologist with Migratory Bird Management in Anchorage. **Fran Mauer** retired after 28 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, the last 21 years with Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He maintains an interest in conservation issues and is now active in several organizations. **Tom Seaton**, a wildlife technician for ADF&G, defended his M.S. thesis at UAF in September and was hired as the assistant area biologist in Fairbanks.

News from Southeast

By Tom Schmacher-Southeast Representative

No news from southeast this time.

News from Southcentral

By Herman GRIESE- Southcentral Representative

No news from southcentral this time.

2003 Joint Annual Meeting Oregon Chapter and Northwest Section, The Wildlife Society 10-14 February 2003

Remembering why we are here: Joys of being a wildlife biologist

The roots of our passion for wildlife are diverse, but our drive for conserving this precious resource is undeniable. Come join the Oregon Chapter and the Northwest Section as we host the joint annual meeting in Eugene, Oregon. You won't want to miss it, so send in your registration by **17 JANUARY** to get the early meeting registration rates, and make your lodging reservations by **21 JANUARY**. The Eugene Hilton has reserved a block of rooms for our meeting until **21 JANUARY** at the special rate of \$62.00 US/night single, or \$77.00 US/night double occupancy plus tax. Call The Hilton at 1-800-837-6660 (<http://www.eugene.hilton.com>), and be sure to say you will be attending the meeting of the Oregon Chapter of TWS to receive the special rate. For the latest agenda and registration form visit our web page at <http://fw.oregonstate.edu/tws>. If you have registration questions or special requests, please contact the Oregon Chapter TWS (Kat Beal 541-937-2131).

A symposium, “BIRD CONSERVATION AND NATURAL HISTORY: A NORTHWEST PERSPECTIVE,” will be held 10-11 February (chapter or section member \$110 US / \$174 Canadian; non-member \$130 US /

\$206 Canadian). Concurrent paper sessions and poster presentations will be held 12-14 February, along with an evening social, banquet with speaker, a photo contest, and chapter and section meetings (included in meeting registration fee; chapter or section member \$90 US / \$143 Canadian; non-member \$120 US / \$190 Canadian; student \$35 US / \$55 Canadian). The Plenary Session will feature Art Wolfe, world-renowned wildlife photographer.

Upcoming Professional Meetings

8th Annual Alaska Shorebird Working Group Meeting, December 10-12, 2002

Gordon Watson Conference Room, USFWS Regional Headquarters, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage.
Contact Rick.Lanctot@fws.gov for details.

USFS Forum on Wildlife, Fish and Recreation Interactions, February 3-4, 2003

The Forest Service Alaska Regional Office and Pacific Northwest Research Station will sponsor a Forum on Wildlife, Fish and Recreation Interactions. The one and a half day forum will be held in Juneau. Objectives of the forum are to: deliver a state-of-the-issue overview of interactions of wildlife, fish and recreation use; provide a picture of patterns and trends (and future implications) in recreational use in southeast and southcentral Alaska; and share experiences and results of projects on national forest lands in Alaska focusing on this issue. For more information, please contact Ellen Campbell (ellencampbell@fs.fed.us or 907-586-7919).

Innovative Solutions to Wildlife/Highway Interactions

Region 10 (Alaska) of the U.S. Forest Service may be hosting a training session on "Innovative Solutions to Wildlife/Highway Interactions" in or near Anchorage if enough interest is expressed. Ken Vaughn at the Chugach NF (kvaughn@fs.fed.us) is currently trying to determine the level of interest. The training will bring together highway planners, engineers, and biologists. Several federal agencies are cooperating to bring up the training, but others including state agencies are welcome, space permitting. If it doesn't work to hold it in Alaska, there will be a session in Portland, OR. On a related issue, an upcoming website for a searchable database on wildlife-highway interactions called the Wildlife Crossings Toolkit (www.wildlifecrossings.info/beta2.htm) will be launching soon (when it is up you can just drop the /beta2.htm).

American Fisheries Society Invitation

The president of the Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) has invited members of the Alaska Chapters of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and/or TWS to participate in the AFS annual meeting in Fairbanks, tentatively scheduled for October 21-23, 2003. Although not yet finalized, topics of the meeting will likely include ecological processes, such as anadromous fish as conduits of marine nutrients into boreal forests, and understanding effects of human uses of multiple resources at the land-water interface. Anyone interested in possibly presenting a paper or learning more about this meeting should contact Tom Paragi (tom_paragi@fishgame.state.ak.us).

Job Announcements

(send future job announcements to Kevin White at kevin_white@fishgame.state.ak.us)

No job announcements this time.

2002 Membership Renewal

Current membership status is noted on the address label for this newsletter. Members interested in renewing their membership to the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society should send their membership dues to Jackie Kephart in Fairbanks. If you renew through headquarters with your national and sectional dues continue to do

so. This is the easiest way for us to keep our membership files straight. Our membership list is usually updated before each newsletter is sent, so hurry to renew your membership and you will continue to receive the Alaskan Wildlifer in the future.

Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2003 Membership Form

If you are not a member of National chapter and want to maintain your membership please fill out the form below and return it to Jackie Kephart at the address on the front of this newsletter. If you are a member of National please continue to pay your state dues when you renew.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Numbers-Work: _____ **Home:** _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

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