



The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society Newsletter

@Colby Slezak

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Message from the Editor

Winter is still upon us, but this issue's cover photo is a lovely reminder that warmer weather and greener days are coming!

In the last issue, President Michael Fishman offered a great overview of the ongoing activities in the Northeast Section. Treasurer Tammy Colt reminded us how educational—and fun—conferences can be. So in the spirit of spring and new beginnings, if you are interested in becoming more involved with TWS —whether it's your local student chapter or at the Northeast or National level - this issue has some options to get you started.

In addition to open positions on the Conservation Affairs Committee and Executive Board, there are opportunities for learning, networking, and /or getting outside: the Northeast Student Conclave, the annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference, the Wildlife Field Course, and the Leadership Institute.

Registration deadlines and event dates are approaching fast, so don't delay!



@Tammy Cloutier

Featured Photographer: Colby Slezak

Colby is a senior in the wildlife management (B.T.) program at SUNY Cobleskill in Upstate NY. He is also TWS' NE Undergraduate Rep and Vice President for the student chapter at SUNY. Colby has been involved with The Wildlife Society since starting Cobleskill three years ago, but has been interested in wildlife since he was young. He has worked with bighorn sheep in Idaho, moose in Maine, and fishers in the Adirondacks. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, snowmobiling, and hiking, and is currently looking to attend grad school in the coming fall.



NORTHEAST UPDATES

The Conservation Affairs Committee is looking for a new Chair!

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact the current Chair, Eric Schradung, or any of our officers for more information.

IN ADDITION...

The **NE undergrad rep position** will be open this spring. Consider applying or spreading the word!

(See *Who's Who in the Northeast* at the end of this newsletter for contact information)



NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

2019 Wildlife Field Course Open for Enrollment

The Section will offer the 11th annual Wildlife Field Course **May 19-June 1, 2019**. We partner with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Castleton University to offer this 2 week course for 3 college credits. Total cost for the course, which includes tuition for the 3 credits and room and board, is \$950. Please visit the course website for details and registration information. **Enrollment is capped at 20 students — only 2 spots left!**

The course is open to undergraduate or graduate students (graduate credits are available at the same cost), as well as recent college grads looking for additional field skills and networking. We bring in more than 2 dozen practicing wildlife and fisheries professionals to lead various sessions of the course, so it is a great networking opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere. Emphasis is on hands on activities - no previous experience with any of the techniques is required or assumed. In addition to a wide range of field skills, we also do hunter education training and Project Wild training; students are eligible to receive certification in both of those programs.

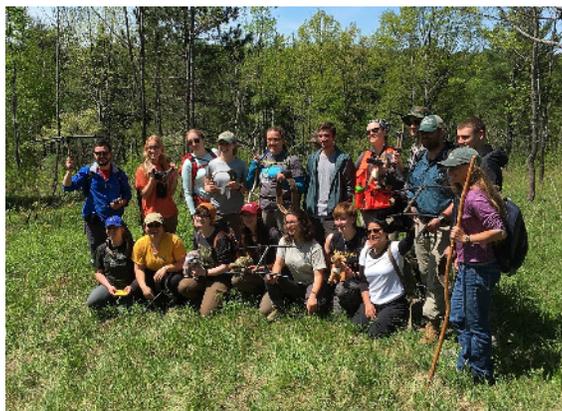


We are always happy to have new volunteer instructors, too. In particular, this coming year, we'd welcome one or more instructors in non-invasive sampling techniques.

Please visit the course website for more details and registration forms: <http://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/student-field-course/>

Prospective students and instructors can contact course organizer John McDonald directly at twsacdonald@gmail.com with any questions. Several TWS chapters (New England, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) offer full or partial scholarships to the course, so students should check with their local chapter for information on how to apply. You can find links to your local chapter on The Wildlife Society's website (wildlife.org).

Shout out to the NJ DEP for their donation of used radio collars last year. They were greatly appreciated!



NORTHEAST UPDATES CONTINUED

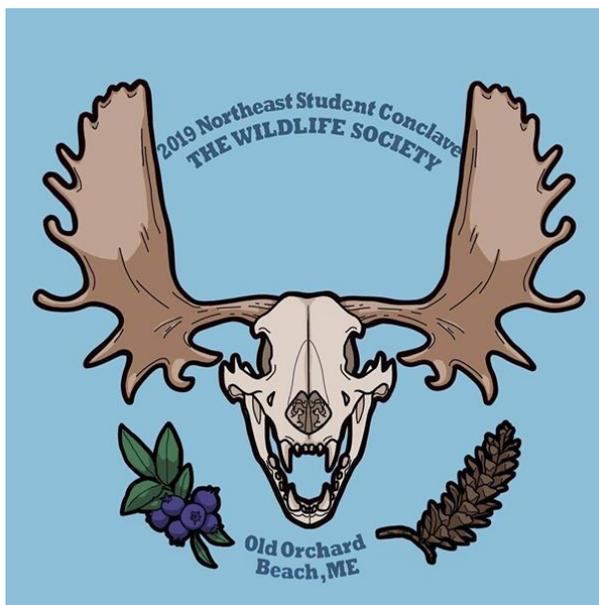
2019 Northeast Student Conclave

Registration is now open!

The University of Maine's Student Chapter of TWS is proud to host this year's TWS **Northeast Student Conclave** in **Old Orchard Beach, Maine** on **April 12, 13, and 14th**.

Workshops include Camera Trapping, Bat Research, Human Dimensions in Wildlife, Introduction to R, Salt Marsh Ecology, Animal Ambassadors, and more!

For more information, or to register, visit their [website](#).



NEAFA Annual Conference

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the **75th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference** that will be hosted by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection **April 14-16, 2019** in Groton, Connecticut at the Mystic Marriott Hotel.

Workshops, a new mobile conference app, special symposia, and more!

For more information, check out their website at www.neafwa.org/conference.html



**Northeast Association of
Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

STATE UPDATES: VERMONT

The New England Chapter



The Wildlife Society

*This year Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected near the US-Canadian border. Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has an ongoing CWB monitoring and public outreach program.

*In 2018 Vermont monitored 23 known nesting pairs of bald eagles which produced at least 33 successful young.

*Vermont had one incident of an attack by a rabid bobcat. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is a member of the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative.

*2018 marks the 3rd year of an ongoing moose population study. To date, there are 96 collared moose in the study which monitors parasitism from winter tick and assesses whether calves

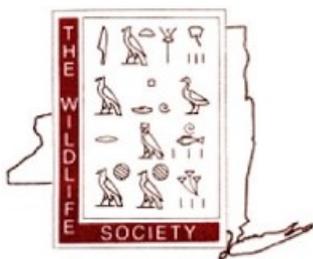


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STATE UPDATES: NEW YORK



The New York Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce the

2019 Annual Meeting

March 14th-15th at

The Senate Garage in Kingston, NY

Theme: Current and Notable Wildlife and other Natural Resource Projects across New York.
Click [here](#) for more information.

STATE UPDATES: MASSACHUSETTS

Bear harvest

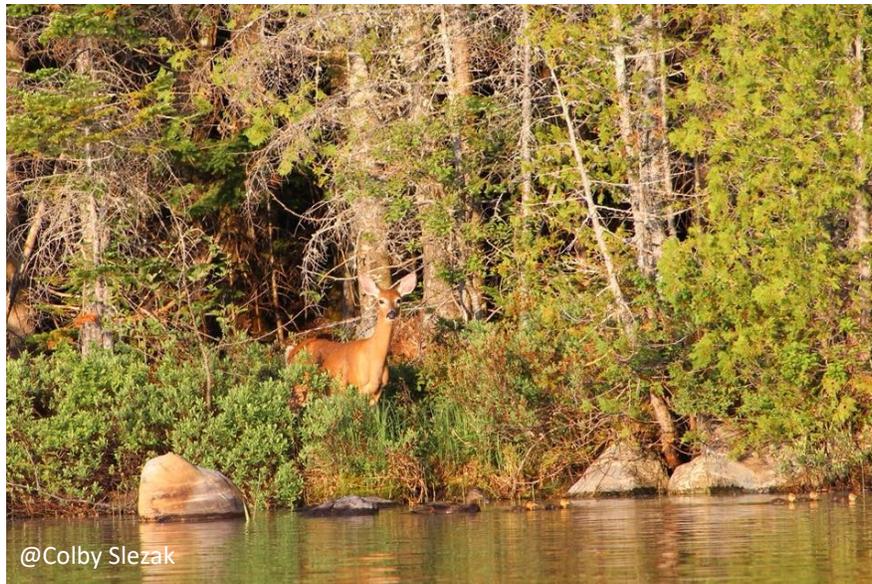
3 season total was 201

September = 150

November = 26

Shotgun = 25

Total harvest was down about 25% from last year, but was due entirely to the lower shotgun season harvest. Last year 93 bears were taken during shotgun season when food availability was patchy and bears were more active. This year, given extreme food shortages (very little mast), bears likely denned early and thus were not available to harvest during shotgun season.



Fall Turkey

Fall turkey season total = 231

55% female

45% male

This total number is very similar to previous years and was up from last year by about 40 birds.

Deer harvest

Deer harvest total will be another new record high this year. Season harvest totals will be on the MassWildlife website. 125 deer were harvested on the youth deer hunt day, and 1,115 permits for youth day were issued.

STATE UPDATES: MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUED

New England Cottontail

The annual New England Cottontail Technical Committee Meeting was held January 14-17 and was hosted by MassWildlife in Great Barrington, MA. Despite the absence of federal employees, the meeting was well-attended by state agency and WMI personnel. Presentations were given on current research efforts and findings as well as updates on habitat management projects, regional species monitoring, and translocation and captive breeding efforts.



Proposed regulatory change for wild turkey hunting seasons

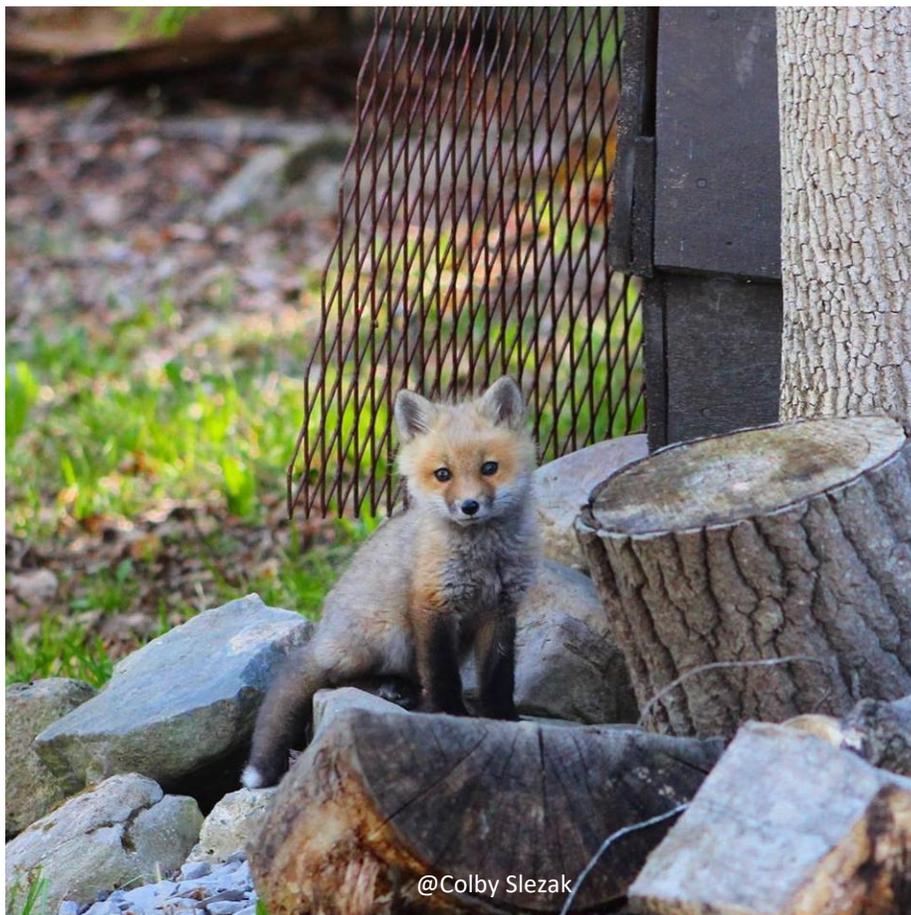
In response to a request submitted by NWTf to review turkey hunting regulations to evaluate potential changes that create new hunting opportunities and increase participation, Wildlife Section staff have reviewed current regulations and proposed potential changes. Potential changes aimed to increase opportunity may affect bag limits, fall season dates, and the youth turkey hunt day. Harvest data leave no doubt that our robust turkey population can support an increased bag limit and expand seasons. Two public meetings will be held in February to gather comments from stakeholders regarding the potential regulatory changes. These are not formal public hearings, but simply meetings that provide the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment on the proposed season changes. One meeting will be held at Field Headquarters in Westborough, and the other will be held at Palmer Public Library. Questions will be addressed and the public comments will be summarized and presented to the Fish and Wildlife Board for consideration before any regulatory changes are officially proposed.

Suggested changes on next page...

STATE UPDATES: MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUED

Five (5) preliminary suggested changes include:

- 1) Increase annual bag limits to 3 birds (2 bearded birds in spring, 1 either sex in fall)
- 2) Increase daily bag limit to 2 per day during spring season
- 3) Expand the fall season with archery equipment only to coincide with the archery deer season. Would allow hunters to take turkey with archery during the entire 6-8 week archery deer season. Hunters could still use shotgun, muzzleloading shotguns, and archery during the traditional 2-week fall turkey season (last Monday in October through second Saturday thereafter). This would increase opportunity for bow hunters.
- 4) Expand youth day hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5pm (currently goes until noon). Expanded hours will increase the total time youths have to potentially harvest a turkey. Allow 12-14 year olds to use their turkey permit during the fall season. Currently they can only use their tags on the youth day or during the remainder of the spring season.



SUNY COBLESKILL STUDENT CHAPTER

SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter Makes Final Round at TWS National Quiz Bowl, and Continues Networking Traditions

By Roger J. Masse (Advisor)

The SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) made noise at the TWS national meeting in Cleveland, OH by making it to the final round of the highly competitive Quiz Bowl competition. SUNY Cobleskill was the only team from the Northeast Section to make the final round! In the early rounds, Cindy Bruneau, Ally Gelinas, Kaitlin Hunt, Colby Slezak (Team Captain), and Cat Werth defeated Green Mountain College (VT), Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (GA), and Frostburg State University (MD). SUNY Cobleskill competed well against Virginia Tech, Humboldt State University, and Perdue University during the final round. Ultimately, SUNY Cobleskill finished 4th out of 23 teams from around the country (and a few from Canada)! Thanks to Dr. Carmen Greenwood for facilitating this trip with our student chapter.



SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS Quiz Bowl team at the 2019 national meeting of TWS in Cleveland, OH; Cindy Bruneau (front) and (left to right) Kaitlin Hunt, Ally Gelinas, Cat Werth, and Colby Slezak (Team Captain).

In addition to their strong showing at the national Quiz Bowl competition, the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS has been continuing important networking traditions for their student members. On 4 October 2018, the student chapter organized the always popular Women in Wildlife Roasting Wieners in the Woods. This unique networking event aims to connect female students and female professionals in wildlife and other natural resources fields in a relaxed and fun setting. The tradition was started by Professor Kevin Berner (retired) and takes place at night around a campfire on his property in Richmondville, NY. This year marked the 16th Annual Women in Wildlife Roasting Wieners in the Woods! Currently, the student chapter is busy planning their annual Student-Professional Mixer which is set for 4 April 2019.

SUNY COBLESKILL STUDENT CHAPTER CONTINUED

SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter Continued...

This event takes place in the Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources on the SUNY Cobleskill campus and aims to draw diverse professionals in the fisheries, wildlife, and environmental science fields. Students attending the event are able to network with these professionals, hear from professionals about their careers and pathways to success, and have their resumes critiqued. Together, these important networking events help student chapter members remain connected with professionals in the field.



Students and professionals attending the annual Women in Wildlife Roasting Wieners in the Woods networking event organized by the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS.



Students and professionals attending the annual Student-Professional Mixer networking event organized by the SUNY Cobleskill Student Chapter of TWS.

TWS NATIONAL

TWS has issued a formal letter of support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a bipartisan bill which would allocate \$1.3 billion in annual federal funding to state wildlife and fisheries agencies through a match program.



TWS Leadership Institute Now Accepting Applications

The Wildlife Society's flagship leadership training program, the Leadership Institute, is now accepting applications for its Class of 2019! The program **begins in May** and concludes at TWS's Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada in October. This year's Leadership Institute cohort will engage with Leadership Institute alumni and TWS Council members, work collaboratively to understand a wide array of leadership styles and perspectives, develop stronger written and verbal communication skills, and learn how to better navigate the conservation field. Participants will receive complimentary registration and a travel grant to attend the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, typically individuals 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and with demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. All applicants must be members in good standing of TWS and a chapter or section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity, with selection based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Learn more and apply [here](#). **The application deadline is March 24, 2019.**

TWS NATIONAL UPDATES CONTINUED



SAVE THE DATE!

RENO, NEVADA | SEPT. 29 – OCT. 3, 2019

This year The Wildlife Society travels to **Reno, Nev.**, for a **joint conference with American Fisheries Society**. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) conferences are where fisheries and wildlife professionals meet with their colleagues, present groundbreaking science, and enhance their interdisciplinary skills. Each year our conference grows with more educational and networking sessions, and 2019 is no exception.

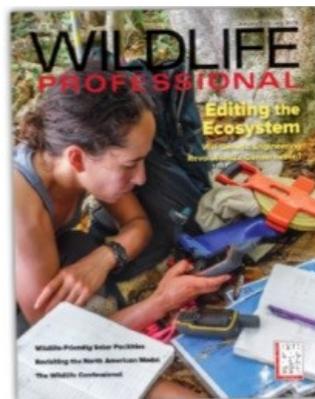
NOW OPEN: Call for Abstracts

Includes Contributed Oral and Poster presentations, Student Research in Progress posters

February 19—April 5, 2019

We will be updating our 2019 conference website afstws2019.org as more information becomes available. However, our official website launch will be May 1, 2019.

Have you checked out the January/February issue of *The Wildlife Professional*?



WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST?

Executive Board		
President	Michael Fishman	michael.s.fishman@gmail.com
President-Elect	Scott C Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Immediate Past-President	Emily Just	emjust@pa.gov
Treasurer	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Secretary	Megan A Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
NE Section Representative	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Graduate Student Rep	Laken Ganoe	Gan5557@calu.edu
Undergraduate Student Rep	Colby Slezak	Slezak300@cobleskill.edu
Audit Committee		
Chair	Mitch Hartley	mitch_hartley@fws.gov
Member	Tom Decker	thomas_decker@fws.gov
Treasurer	Scott Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Awards Committee		
Chair	Gordon Batcheller	gordon.batcheller@gmail.com
Co-chair	Jim Anderson	jim.anderson@mail.wvu.edu
Member	Tammy Colt	tcolt@pa.gov
Member	Cedric Alexander	cedric.alexander@state.vt.us
Member	Paul Johansen	paul.r.johansen@wv.gov
Member	John Lanier	john@ursush.com
Member	Megan Linske	megan.linske@ct.gov
Member	Emily Just	emjust@pa.gov
Communications Committee		
Newsletter Editor	Tammy Cloutier	tlclout33@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken MacKenzie	ken.mackenzie@state.ma.us
NE Representative to TWP	Scott Williams	scott.williams@ct.gov
Conservation Affairs Committee		
Chair (NJ)	Eric Schradling	eric_schradling@fws.gov
Member (DE)	Emily Boyd	emily.boyd@state.de.us
Member (PA)	Reg Hoyt	reginald.hoyt@delval.edu
Member (ME)	Rodney Kelshaw	rodney.kelshaw@stantec.net
Student Member	Rene Tam	rctam@syr.edu
NJ Rep*	Lisa Clark	Lisa.Clark@dep.nj.gov
MD-DE Rep*	Carol Pollio	drpollio@comcast.net
NY Rep*		
WV Rep*	Jim Fregonara	Jim.M.Fregonara@wv.gov
*These individuals have not been formally appointed by the section, but are serving as the point of contact for their Chapter. Effort should be made to <i>confirm</i> 1 representative from each Chapter.		

WHO'S WHO IN THE NORTHEAST? CONTINUED

Operations Committee		
Chair	Tim Green	tgreen@bnl.gov
Member	Angela Fuller	angela.fuller@cornell.edu
Member	Samara Trusso	satrusso@pa.gov
Student Affairs Committee		
Chair	Val Titus	Valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Co-chair	Ross Conover	rconover@paulsmiths.edu
Member (PA)	Kyle Van Why	kyle.r.vanwhy@aphis.usda.gov
Member (CT)	Miranda Davis	mldavis13@gmail.com
Member (PA)	Frederic Brenner	fibrenner@gcc.edu
Conclave Representative	Val Titus	Valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu
Student Development Working Group Rep	Laken Ganoe	Gan5557@calu.edu
Field Course Representative	John McDonald	twsmcdonald@gmail.com
Workshop (ad hoc) Committee		
Chair	Megan Linske	Megan.linske@ct.gov
Member	Shawn Haskell	Shawn.haskell@maine.gov
Member	Emily Just	edomoto@pa.gov

