



Ontario Chapter TWS Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2019

President's Message

Danielle Ethier, PhD
Bird Population Scientist, Birds Canada

Another year is ending, which reminds us to pause and reflect on all that has happened this past year, both professionally and personally. As an Ontario wildlife professional, I see the vast opportunities and challenges our members face. I know the stress of qualifying exams and job uncertainty. I have also experienced the excitement of publishing research and landing the dream job. You are not alone in your quest. All our Chapter Members are on this journey together. We are incredibly lucky to be working in a field we are passionate about, and that inspires us to work hard to make a meaningful difference. The path forward is not linear, especially for those young in their career. As you set out to make your New Years resolution, I encourage you to think about your professional career and make a commitment to growth, leadership, and continuous learning. How will you be a more influential and inspiring wildlife professional in the year to come?!

2020 Conference and AGM Announcement

Save the date for the Ontario Chapter and Canadian Section Joint Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 27-29 at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough! The 2020 conference theme is "Connecting and Building Ontario's Wildlife Profession". Our AGM will include student focussed workshops, a student-professional mixer, a plenary session featuring preeminent wildlife scholars in the province and from across Canada, and talks from students and professionals on topics of wildlife

research occurring throughout Ontario, Canada, and North America. Registration will be announced in early 2020. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the 'Current Opportunities' section in this newsletter. If you or your organization can sponsor this event, please contact Matt Dyson @ info@octws.ca. Sponsored tables are still available!

Committee Updates

Education and Information Committee is working hard to inform our membership and the public of basic wildlife management concepts and of Chapter and Society activities and interests. Check us out on Facebook, twitter, and Instagram. Share your research, current job postings, or upcoming conservation event.

Ontario Chapter Member Research Highlights



Derek Morningstar, a senior ecologist with LGL Limited and Member of the Ontario Chapter, has been studying bats in Ontario for many years and is considered an expert in their ecology and conservation. Derek has recently published two articles, which are featured in *Ecosphere* and *The Canadian Field Naturalist*. In his first article, Derek and co-authors test for shifts in interspecific competition in bat community's post-introduction of white-nose syndrome (WNS). Results show an increase in activity of big brown bats corresponding to a decline in the activity of little brown bats, the latter of which are more heavily affected by WNS. Further, the big brown bats consumed a wider breadth of prey, including many insect species previously consumed by little browns, suggesting that the introduction of WNS has resulted in relaxed interspecific competition within these bat communities. In his second article, Derek and co-authors study the summer movements of radio-tagged hoary bats using the MOTUS wildlife tracking system. One individual traveled a minimum of 827 km in a circular route over a 2-week period, which is an amazing distance for such a small mammal!



Matt Dyson, PhD Candidate at the University of Waterloo and current President-elect of the Ontario Chapter, has recently published his research in the *Journal of Field Ornithology*. Matt and co-authors examine the fine-scale vegetation features selected by American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, and Ring-necked Ducks for nesting. Results suggest that differences among species that may facilitate their coexistence at a regional scale. Specifically, females of species nesting in upland habitat selected nest sites that optimized concealment from aerial predators while also allowing detection of and escape from terrestrial

predators. Consequently, alteration in the composition and heterogeneity of vegetation and predator communities caused by climate change and industrial development in the boreal forest of Canada may affect the nest-site selection strategies of boreal ducks.

Current Opportunities

Nominations for Ontario Chapter Executive Members: Looking to make meaningful connections and grow your influence as a wildlife professional? Join our team! The Ontario Chapter will be seeking nominations for President-elect in the new year. Contact us for more details on this positions and how to apply.

AGM Volunteers – Are you looking to make an impact and meaningful career connections? Then plan to attend our joint AGM with the Canadian Section at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough, March 27-29th, 2020. Now that you have decided to attend, consider volunteering! It looks great on your resume and will help make this event more successful.

Newsletter Submissions – Would you like to write a featured article for our Newsletter. Tell us about your research, outreach, or program initiatives? Let’s hear what wildlife professionals are doing across our vast province!

Please email info@octws.ca to learn more about these opportunities

2020 Membership Renewal/Application

Join online at TWS’s secure website at: <http://wildlife.org/join/>
(Parent TWS membership required also)

OR

Join online from the Ontario Chapter website <http://www.octws.ca/membership>
(Chapter membership only)

Please Note: The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter will not share your information with third party organizations, although your information may be shared with The Wildlife Society parent organization for records management. The Wildlife Society – Ontario Chapter may contact you from time to time with updates on Chapter events and activities.