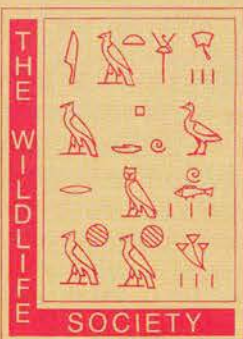


Annual Report 2003

Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship
through Science and Education



Photo by Thomas G. Barnes



The Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is an international, nonprofit organization of wildlife professionals and students dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Since 1937, TWS has furthered our mission by advancing the science and practice of wildlife conservation and management, promoting continuing education of wildlife professionals, and advocating for science-based wildlife policy. This report highlights 2003 accomplishments under each of our five primary goals.

Advocate the use of sound biological, social, and economic information in making wildlife policy decisions.

Wildlife Policy: The Wildlife Society advocates for the application of science to wildlife conservation legislation and regulations. Successful TWS policy efforts in 2003 include:

- ▶ Helped achieve strong funding and directives for Farm Bill conservation programs—Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve, Grassland Reserve, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives
- ▶ Qualified Certified Wildlife Biologists as USDA-approved Technical Service Providers to assist in Farm Bill implementation
- ▶ Helped secure \$70 million for state wildlife conservation in FY2004 through the Teaming With Wildlife Campaign
- ▶ Helped secure an additional \$23 million in FY2004 for National Wildlife Refuge System operations and maintenance
- ▶ Helped secure an additional \$4 million in FY2004 for wildlife and habitat management on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands
- ▶ Influenced the Administration’s decision *not* to limit Clean Water Act protection for isolated wetlands
- ▶ Promoted broad stakeholder involvement in protection and management of roadless areas in the National Forest System
- ▶ Helped ensure inclusion of wildlife conservation objectives for public land in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

“Thank you for your dedication to wildlife policy...you are doing excellent work with the Wildlife Policy News.”
 – Ed Hackett, Wildlife Habitat Management Institute, NRCS

Technical Reviews: The Wildlife Society prepares technical analyses on conservation issues to provide a scientific basis for wildlife policy recommendations. These reports are used by TWS, legislators, agency leaders, and conservation partners. In 2003, two technical reviews were completed:

- ▶ The Relationship of Economic Growth to Wildlife Conservation
- ▶ Status of the Northern Goshawk in the Western United States



Enhance the knowledge and technical capabilities of wildlife professionals.

The Society’s flagship publication, *The Journal of Wildlife Management* continues to build the knowledge base of wildlife science with research-based information about the biology, ecology, conservation, and management of wild

animals. Its sister journal, the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, emphasizes the human dimensions of conserving and managing

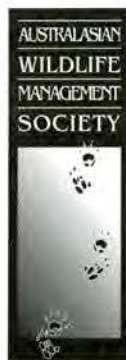
wildlife, field methods and techniques, and other applied aspects of the wildlife profession. In 2003 the *Bulletin* featured special coverage of bats, people-wildlife interactions, white-tailed deer, and carnivore behavior. In 2003 TWS also published four *Wildlife Monographs*—on the subjects of West Indian manatees, wolves in the Yukon, effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on river otters, and northern goshawk nesting habitat.



Attendance at TWS’s 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont exceeded 1,400, including 500 students. Registrants rated networking with colleagues as the most important benefit of the conference, followed by staying well informed about national/international wildlife issues, the opportunity to present one’s work to a national/international audience, and continuing education. Sessions on woodland vernal pools, sustainability science, spatial statistics, stable isotopes, and wildlife diseases were some of the most popular.



TWS is proud to have co-hosted the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand in December 2003. Record-breaking participation from 940 wildlife biologists from 52 countries made this an outstanding opportunity for learning and networking on a global scale. A very successful fundraising effort allowed us to provide travel grants to 80 indigenous and developing-nation wildlifera from 26 countries. The result was a rich cultural experience overlaid on a diverse technical program. TWS thanks our in-country partners Landcare Research, Australasian Wildlife Management Society, and Ngai Tahu for their contributions to the congress’ success.



The Wildlife Society signed an affiliation agreement with the Australasian Wildlife Management Society on December 4, 2003, to increase communication and cooperation between the two organizations in furtherance of shared goals. It is hoped that this affiliation will become a model for future international alliances to extend TWS’s global outreach.

Promote professional standards for wildlife research, education, and management.

Wildlife professionals who meet the Society’s rigorous standards for education, experience, and ethics may be recognized as a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) or Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB). Such recognition provides the public and employers with a reliable means of identifying individuals with appropriate skills. An extensive review of the certification requirements led to adjustments in 2003 to bring the program in line with current professional needs. During 2003, 58 CWBs and 51 AWBs were added to the certification roster of over 5,900 since 1977.

“On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your support for...The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a key supporter of the President’s Healthy Forests Initiative, I thought you would appreciate a copy of the signed bill.” – Bill Greene, Office of Strategic Initiatives, The White House

Recognize the professional stewardship of wildlife and the promotion of TWS goals.

TWS annually presents awards in 15 categories to recognize outstanding achievements and distinguished service in the wildlife field. Beginning in 2003, a new award category was initiated–TWS Fellow—a lifetime honor denoting exceptional service to the wildlife profession. Six individuals were named to the class of 2003.

Ensure The Wildlife Society’s long-term success by maintaining membership involvement and financial stability.

Membership: TWS ended 2003 with 8,117 members, including 1,419 student members, an overall decline of 3.8% from 2002 and the seventh straight year of membership loss. We do not fully understand all the reasons for the membership downturn, but the profession is experiencing an unprecedented increase in retirements due to an aging workforce and the sluggish economy. This decline in membership has come at a time when TWS activities and services have increased. As a result, we are trying to do more than ever before but with fewer dues-paying members to carry the load. Maintaining and increasing a strong and consistent base of members—who volunteer their time and pay dues—is essential to our continued ability to accomplish our mission.

Chapters: The Wildlife Society’s 52 chapters and 89 student chapters remain strong. Chapters are the focal point for TWS activity at the state/provincial/university level, where they promote networking, conduct educational programs, and advocate for science-based wildlife conservation. Our ongoing growth in student chapters continued in 2003 with new chapters at Central Missouri State University and Humboldt (CA) State University. Here are some highlights of chapter activities in 2003:

- ▶ **Alaska** – Supported legislation to create a wildlife conservation pass for participants on commercially operated wildlife viewing tours, and advocated for inclusion of Alaskan National Forests in the Forest Service’s Roadless Areas Conservation Rule
- ▶ **Colorado** – Conducted a conference on *Wildlife Diseases in Colorado and the West* and a workshop on *Use of Geographic Information Systems in Wildlife Management*
- ▶ **Hawaii** – Sponsored a workshop on *Wetland Management in the Hawaiian Islands*
- ▶ **Indiana** – Held a conference on *Zoonotic Diseases*
- ▶ **New England** – Hosted TWS’s 10th Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont
- ▶ **North Carolina** – Held six workshops on field identification of plants and birds, continued its affiliation with Smolensk National Park in Russia, and completed three video-taped

interviews with elder wildlife professionals for TWS’s Celebrating our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)

program

- ▶ **Texas** – Conducted its 10th annual Wildlife Conservation Camp for high school-aged youth
- ▶ **University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point** – Recognized as Student Chapter of the Year for its success in implementing 30 conservation projects involving the chapter’s 200 members

Working Groups: TWS’s 14 subject-matter working groups were active in 2003. Here is a sampling of accomplishments:

- ▶ **Biological Diversity** – Sponsored a symposium on *Relationships between Herbicides and Forest Biodiversity*
- ▶ **Biometrics** – Held symposia on *Spatial Statistics in Wildlife Biology and Modeling, Estimation, and Decision Making in Natural Resource Management*
- ▶ **Steady State Economy** – Held a symposium on *Sustainability Science and the Wildlife Profession*
- ▶ **Urban Wildlife** – Held a workshop on *Open Space Design* and symposia on *Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Urban/Suburban America* and *Wildlife Disease in the Urban/Suburban Environment*
- ▶ **Wildlife Damage Management** – Developed position statements on double-crested cormorants and mute swans, and organized the *Wildlife Damage Management Conference*
- ▶ **Wildlife Planning and Administration** – Held a symposium on *Influencing Policies through Coalitions: Why Wildlife Biologists Should Participate*
- ▶ **Wildlife Toxicology** – Sponsored symposia on *Wildlife Toxicology Issues in the Northeast and Assessing Risks to Wildlife Populations from Multiple Stressors*

Finances: TWS implemented cost-cutting and revenue-generating measures early in 2003 and ended the year with a small surplus as noted in the Statement of Activities for 2003. However, restricted gifts to the endowment campaign mask the reality that our general operations actually experienced a deficit for the fifth consecutive year. Reserve funds were used to offset this shortfall. Although we still have significant reserves, additional cost-cutting and revenue-generating measures will be implemented in 2004 to try to turn this around. The Statement of Financial Position shows The Wildlife Society’s net worth as of December 31, 2003.

Endowment Campaign: The Endowment Campaign to Sustain Wildlife Conservation continued to realize success in 2003. By the end of the year, gifts and pledges totaling nearly \$1.7 million had been secured toward our \$3 million goal. The objective of the campaign is to provide funds for future wildlife policy and public outreach efforts.

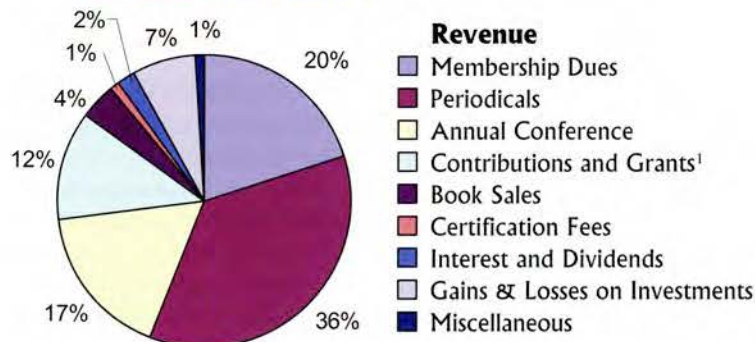


A herpetology identification class at the Texas Chapter’s 10th annual Wildlife Conservation Camp

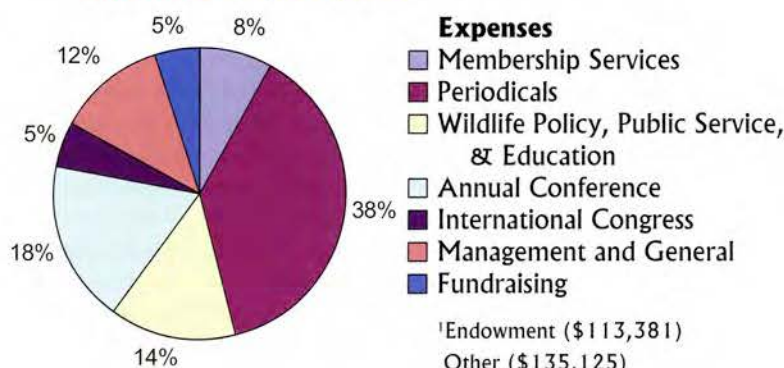
The Wildlife Society

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2003

Revenue: \$2,042,354



Expenses: \$2,036,623



¹Endowment (\$113,381)
Other (\$135,125)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(as of December 31, 2003)

Assets	
Cash	\$367,407
Accounts Receivable	\$119,445
Contributions & Grants Receivable	\$59,246
Inventory	\$88,112
Prepaid Expenses	\$46,411
Investments	\$1,334,329
Property and Equipment	\$195,930

Total Assets \$2,210,880

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$141,907
Accrued Salaries	\$55,328
Capital Lease	\$24,893
Deferred Revenue ²	\$651,333

Total Liabilities \$873,461

Net Assets \$1,337,419

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$2,210,880

²Membership Dues and Periodical Fees received in 2003 for 2004

“I usually try to keep up with political decisions that affect local, state, and national natural resource issues, but your succinct email messages sometimes alert me to important news that I otherwise might have missed.” – Stacy McNulty, Adirondack Ecological Center, SUNY

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(Sept. 2003-Sept. 2004)

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