

# THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2019 Issue 3

 Follow us on Twitter!

 Like us on Facebook!

Summer Edition

## Inside this issue:

<b>Regional News</b>	2
<b>2019 BioBlitz Upcoming!</b>	5
<b>Student Voice</b>	7
<b>Join Our Chair Positions</b>	8
<b>TWS Reno Meeting Flyer</b>	9
<b>TWS Most Cited Papers</b>	10
<b>Cont. Education Grants</b>	12
<b>Contribute Submissions!</b>	12

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Jessica Moreno  
(520) 440-2885 [wildlifepathways@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifepathways@gmail.com)

**President Elect:** Andrew Jones  
(623) 236-7734 [ajones@azgfd.gov](mailto:ajones@azgfd.gov)

**Treasurer:** Haley Nelson  
(480) 204-9312 [hnelson@azgfd.gov](mailto:hnelson@azgfd.gov)

**Recording Secretary:** Valerie Horncastle  
(928) 606-4393 [vhorncastle@gmail.com](mailto:vhorncastle@gmail.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Emily Scobie  
(520) 647-6336 [escobie@azgfd.gov](mailto:escobie@azgfd.gov)

**Board Member:** Melissa Merrick  
(520) 490-5931 [mmerrick@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mmerrick@email.arizona.edu)

**Board Member:** Holly Hicks  
(623) 236-7499 [hhicks@azgfd.gov](mailto:hhicks@azgfd.gov)

**Newsletter Editor:** Brian Blais

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/AZTWS>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/aztws>



## The President's Message



2019 AZTWS President Jessica Moreno. Credit Kathleen Kennedy

As biologists and ecologists, we understand the vital importance of biodiversity for both ecosystem function and services that humans rely on. The diminishment of diversity has a profound impact on us. The loss of species and habitats that we experience, study, and know creates in many of us a visceral emotion that has a part to do with understanding what this loss means to our ecosystems and to human well-being and in part to do with personal loss and feeling unheard. I share an affinity for Cassandra of Troy and Greta Thunberg as I respond to the pain of ecological grief while continuing to bear witness, measure changes and cumulative impacts, and use my voice, knowledge, and professional platform to manage and protect species and places.

Our Chapter is a community and a resource for wildlife professionals, students, and activists in Arizona. One of the things I hope we can take a hard look at is how we can be better equipped to respond and effectively do the wonderful and necessary work of wildlife management and conservation – our not-so-small contribution to help save the world. I believe that just like in an ecosystem, diversity in our own community is our greatest source of strength and power of resilience.

Many of us are familiar with the oft-quoted Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac* when he wrote that “One of the penalties of an ecological education is to live alone in a world of wounds.” But we are not alone. Long before (and since) *Almanac* was published in 1949, native people have known profound ecological grief. Our people of color (POC) colleagues are likewise no strangers to living in a world full of wounds. Moreover, they come from generations of experts in the field of working to enact change. Their perspectives and experienc-

(Continued on page 2)

## Presidents Message cont...

(Continued from page 1)

es are vital to our work in wildlife conservation and their voices should not only be at the table but leading the way.

Here are just a few examples of the many ways we should support diversity in our field (none of these ideas are my own):

- Frequently cite papers authored by women, POC, and genderqueer biologists
- Include a land acknowledgment in our reports, papers, posters, and talks to recognize the traditional homelands occurring in our study areas
- Cross-mentoring and peer support
- Focus on results rather than intentions
- Promote underrepresented groups and experts already in the field
- Create safe spaces for underrepresented students and biologists, and respect that this may mean we don't insert our own voice or presence in those spaces
- Ensure speakers, panels, review boards, and committees have diverse representation and leadership
- Paid internships, speaker and instructor honorariums
- Upfront disbursement of grants, stipends, scholarships, and travel funds
- Eliminate macroaggressions, such as by using our own pronouns in introductions, on name tags, and in our email signatures to make it safer for others to do the same
- Replace harmful terminology, such as by saying "lizard lassoing" instead of "noosing" (credit to herpetologist Earyn McGee, @Afro\_Herper)
- Provide lactation rooms at conferences
- Embrace disrupting the status-quo

One of my favorite native writers is Robin Wall Kimmerer, who in *Braiding Sweetgrass* says, "...it is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world

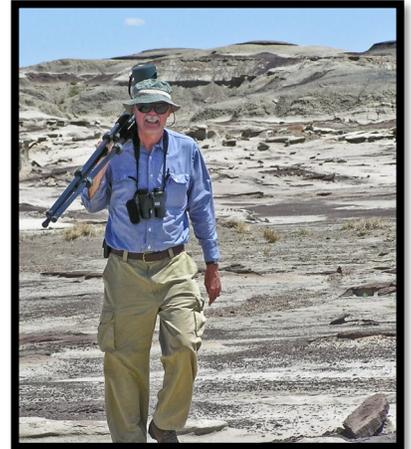
(Continued on page 3)

## Regional News:

### Southwest Section Tracks

By Jim Ramakka  
Southwest Section Representative

It has been a busy Spring for TWS Staff and contractors as they continue to work with American Fisheries Society (AFS) on arrangements for our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be held in Reno, 29 September to 3 October 2019. The conference budget was one of several finance-related topics discussed during a Special Council Meeting via conference/video call on 17 May 2019.



Planning for the Annual Conference requires balancing projected costs versus projected attendance revenues. The AFS model for projecting revenue differs somewhat from that used by TWS. To maintain the best possible attendee experience, Council voted to give the Executive Committee the discretion to adjust the budget cap for portions of the budget if attendance exceeds the numbers projected based on past conferences.

Non-conference related finances were a major topic of other Council discussions. The TWS financial situation has improved greatly over the last few years. During its Spring Meeting in Denver, Council established a new investment fund – the Council Action Fund (CAF). The concept for creating the CAF was to allow moving funds in the Permanent Reserve (PR) that exceed the goal set by the TWS Financial and Investments Policy, into the CAF from the PR. The CAF funds are to be invested with a growth objective and be available for use at Council's discretion. The decision to establish the fund did not specify a dollar amount to move. Executive Director Ed Thompson informed Council that the balance of the PR Fund currently exceeded its goal by approximately \$157,000. Council members voted to move \$140,000

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair.”

This work gives me joy, as does working in this community with you. When we listen, learn, and lift each other up, our community of support becomes larger, the wildlife conservation field becomes stronger, and the challenges we face become surmountable. Nobody said the work would be painless or without difficulty or without change. But I believe that because of our diverse voices and experiences, we will succeed in doing our part to save the world. It's about more than wildlife, it is also about ourselves.

It's going to take all of us.

Sincerely,

Jessica Moreno  
AZTWS Chapter President



Starry Saguaro. Credit Jake Weirick

## Regional News cont...

(Continued from page 2)

from the PR to the CAF. The full Council will have an extensive discussion of existing TWS funds and strategies for ensuring TWS financial security at the Annual Meeting this September.

The following requests were considered and approved by Council for funding from the CFA:

- \$5,000 to assist in funding the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Wildlife Congress in Mexico (2020)
- \$2,500 to support the Jay N. Darling Institute at Drake University
- \$8,225 to support Women of Wildlife events at the 2019 AFS-TWS Joint Conference (2019)
- \$750 to support the TWS IWMWG-sponsored symposium to be held at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21–25 July 2019.
- \$15,000 to support Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT) during TWS fiscal year 2020, contingent upon CLFT proceeding with a student workshop in TWS 2020 fiscal year and TWS selecting students for participation in all CLFT student workshops during TWS 2020 fiscal year.

Other actions taken during the Special Council Meeting included approval of the minutes of the prior Council meeting held in Reno, 2–4 March 2019 and acceptance of revisions and approval of the *The Wildlife Society Strategic Plan 2019–2023*.

Council also received a brief update on the status of the incorporation of the Canadian Section. The Section is now incorporated in Canada. The Section's proposed bylaws have been reviewed by legal counsel, TWS, and the Executive Committee. Next steps are addressing two areas of concern in the Canadian Section bylaws and developing a licensing agreement.

Also discussed was a request from the Ethnic & Gender Diversity Working Group as well as some other TWS members that future conference scheduling not conflict with Labor Day, other major meetings such as AFWA, or religious holidays such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and others. Council expressed willingness to schedule outside the current September

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

### Regional News cont...

model, but also recognizes that not all conflicts can be avoided. In the cases where conflict is inevitable, the concept would be to schedule conferences so that the same conflict would not occur in consecutive years.

The next TWS Council meeting will be 28–29 September at our joint [TWS/AFS Annual Meeting](#) in Reno, NV. I encourage all TWS members attending the joint meeting to sit in on at least a portion of the Council Meeting to get a sense of the issues involved in managing our professional society.

Hopefully, I will see many of you in Reno and, as always, please feel free to contact me with any issues or topics you would like to see brought before Council for discussion.

Until then,

Jim Ramakka, CWB®

69 Rd. 2785

Aztec, NM 87410

Email: [j\\_ramakka@msn.com](mailto:j_ramakka@msn.com)

Phone: 505-486-2746

\*\*\*\*\*



Bobcat. Credit Scott Sprague.



Ringtail. Credit Scott Sprague.



Desert tortoise with transmitter. Credit Jessica Moreno.

# 2019 AZTWS Bioblitz Event!



iNaturalist user: juddpatterson

iNaturalist user: smarlett

iNaturalist user: prakrit

Photograph by Brian Blais

**WHAT:** [4th Annual Charlie W. Painter Memorial Bioblitz and BBQ](#)

**WHERE:** Southeastern AZ and southwestern NM where the San Bernadino and San Simon Valleys meet the Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mountains, hosted by the Chiricahua Desert Museum, Rodeo, NM [Download the Bioblitz boundary map [here](#)]

**WHEN:** 3:00 pm Friday July 26 to 3:00 pm Saturday July 27, followed by a BBQ and entertainment

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Can be found on the Charlie Painter Bioblitz website [here](#).



iNaturalist user: jm007



iNaturalist user: juddpatterson



iNaturalist user: itsatragon

A fun bioblitz in the beautiful Chiricahua-Peloncillo Mountains border region. You're guaranteed to see lots of wildlife, day or night, during this event! Some highlights from previous 'blitzes include tanagers, flycatchers, spadefoot toads, tarantulas, gila monsters, bighorn sheep, and more including the species in these photos! As with prior bioblitzes, we encourage all participants to contribute to the citizen-science app iNaturalist for the event's sponsored project (details available upon registration). There is a friendly competition for most observations and most species. Wildlife managers will be on site to issue temporary scientific collection licenses for the event.





# 2019 AZTWS Bioblitz

## Volunteer Information



### HOW THE EVENT WORKS

- Whether you form or join a team or head out as a solo citizen scientist, the goal is to find and identify as many observations of living organisms as possible during the Bioblitz period. You can submit as many taxonomic observations as you'd like, animals and plants. These records include location, time, optional notes on quantity or notable life history traits, and photo-vouchers. We encourage using the free app iNaturalist for all observations but you're welcome to submit to subject specific platforms as well (e.g., eBird, eButterfly, HerpMapper, etc.).
- The Geronimo Events Center at the Chiricahua Desert Museum (CDM) will serve as the Bioblitz HQ providing all event registration information, iNaturalist and eBird information and assistance, excursion information and sign-up, and static displays.

### EVENT DETAILS

- *Observation period:* 3:00 pm July 26th to 3:00 pm July 27th, 2019
- *Camping:* Free rustic camping (portable toilets, no showers) is available on the CDM grounds. A list of alternative options are provided [here](#).
- *Food:* Bioblitz registrants have the option to purchase lunches (\$15) and/or participate in the post-Blitz BBQ (July 27th, 5:00 pm) for \$25 (includes local entertainment). Otherwise, plan to bring your own food for the duration of the event. There are limited options for dining, grocery, and fuel in the area (San Simon, AZ, Animas, NM).
- *Collections:* This is an observation-only event with ample opportunity to join a team or learn from local experts. Representatives from Arizona and New Mexico wildlife agencies will be on hand to issue temporary licenses for the event. Check out the array of observations from 2018 [here](#)!

### HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE EVENT

- Contribute as a naturalist and citizen-scientist! Record observations on iNaturalist nested under the CWP Bioblitz's 2019 project (details available at the CDM).
- Several talks, workshops, museum-exploring, and other activities for everyone are available throughout the Bioblitz. See all options in the event schedule [here](#).
- Live and silent auctions to support [local herpetological research](#).



For Herp-enthusiasts, the CWP Bioblitz will be immediately followed by the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Southwest Chapter (SWPARC) [annual conference](#). Stay and learn about local herpetofauna conservation and management in the Southwest!

# Student Voice

**Neil Dutt,**

**Graduate Student, University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources and the Environment**

Arizona is fortunate to be home to four species of skunks. One of the more interesting of these species is the western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*). Being the smallest of the four species, the western spotted skunk also exhibits a unique defensive ability to perform a handstand and accurately aim its spray with surprising precision (thankfully not pictured). Fort Huachuca biologist Betty Phillips and I had a positive encounter with the individual pictured during a mammal monitoring project on the Army installation in October 2017. This adult male decided to investigate his captors after he was released. Frozen in place, I was fortunate enough to snap a few pictures as he climbed in and around our gear. After several tense minutes, we were able to slip away without having first-hand experience of the infamous handstand.

For my MS research, I study the differences in the resource selection, landscape ecology, and social characteristics of an isolated fringe population of long tailed voles in the Pinaleno Mountains, in comparison to the northern core population.

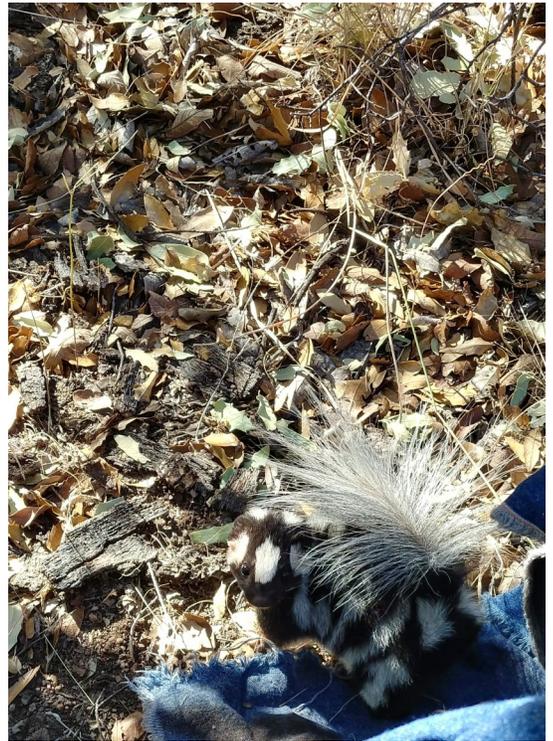
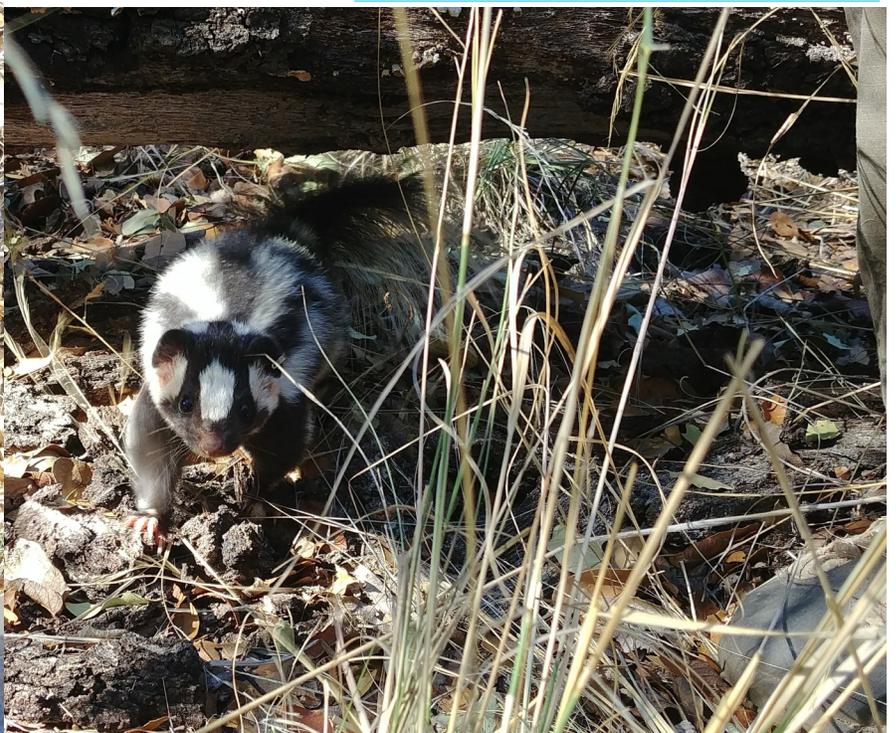
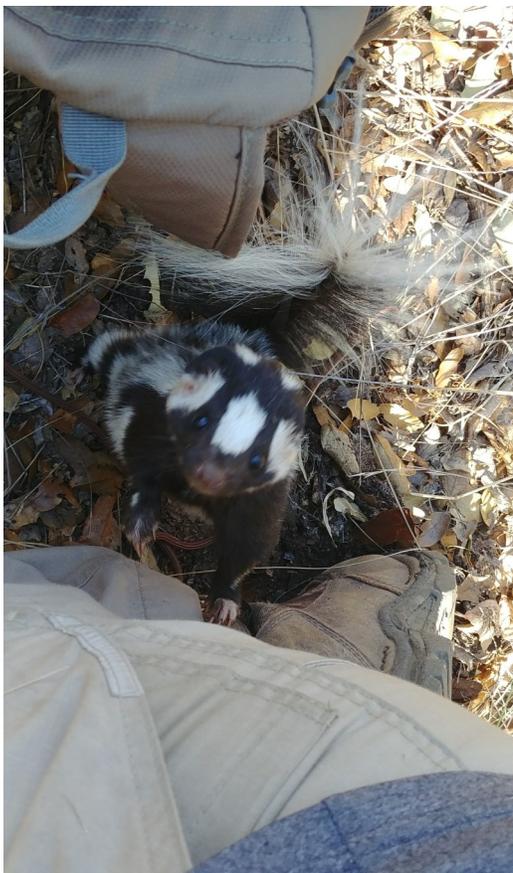


Photo Credits: Neil Dutt.



# JOIN US!

AZTWS is looking to fill the following appointed Committee Chair positions. These volunteer roles are a great way to become involved with your local Chapter!

Contact Jessica Moreno at [wildlife\\_pathways@gmail.com](mailto:wildlife_pathways@gmail.com) with questions or to apply.

## Social Media Communications Chair

The Social Media Chairperson creates and curates content on our social media platforms and help us improve our online presence, with a specific focus on 1) informing and engaging AZTWS members and 2) lifting up diverse voices in the wildlife field. This is an exciting new Chair position for AZTWS, and we are looking for someone with an eye for #SciComm who can bring life back into our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. They can, with approval from the President, appoint additional people to form a Social Media Communications Committee.

## Webmaster

The Webmaster is responsible for posting content to the website and should have experience and knowledge working with WordPress. The ideal candidate has experience building websites and can help with back end maintenance and website construction.

## Volunteer Opportunities Chair

The Volunteer Opportunities Chairperson researches and finds current volunteer opportunities available to wildlife students and professionals in Arizona, and regularly posts those opportunities on our website's events calendar.

## Continuing Education Chair

The Continuing Education Chairperson works with the Chapter Treasurer and the Senior Board Member to form our Continuing Education Committee. The Chair, with the Committee, is responsible for receiving and reviewing grant applications for the Continuing Education Fund, and for selecting grant awardees to support their education and career goals. Stan Cunningham has served in this role for many years and we continue to appreciate his service and contribution to AZTWS and to the wildlife field!



# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY & THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## 2019 JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WHEN

SEPT 29 - OCT 3



WHERE

RENO, NEVADA

As natural resources professionals, ensuring use of the best science available to manage trust resources is a critical goal. Creating effective partnerships, building collaboration, and being aware of new approaches to resource challenges are equally important. One of the best ways to ensure that we remain knowledgeable and up-to-date on new science and cutting-edge approaches to management is through participation in the annual meetings of **The American Fisheries Society** and **The Wildlife Society**.

This time around, American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society will come together for the **first-ever joint national conference of these two organizations**. The event will likely be the **largest gathering of fish and wildlife professionals** ever, and will provide unprecedented opportunities for science-sharing and potential collaboration.

Be a part of this historic event and benefit from:

- Unprecedented networking opportunities with up to 5,000 fish and wildlife professionals and students from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, and countries from around the world, representing every federal agency with a wildlife nexus, major universities, prominent NGOs, and private industry with a vested interest in fish, wildlife, and natural resources management. The opportunity to meet other professionals, create new partnerships, and build collaborative approaches will help solve the wildlife conservation issues important to all of us.
- Unparalleled learning opportunities through a projected 3,000 presentations and 150 symposia on key fish and wildlife management and research topics that will cover virtually every aspect of resource management.
- Continuing education and training as we anticipate dozens of classroom and workshop opportunities.
- Engagement with an expected 150+ businesses and organizations with products, services, and ideas to share in our trade show area that can help attendees and organizations achieve conservation and management goals.



# Most Downloaded TWS Journal Articles in 2018



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

In 2018, there were over 240,000 downloads of articles from TWS' three premier wildlife journals – *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Wildlife Monographs*, and the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. That's an average of 20,000 downloads per month!

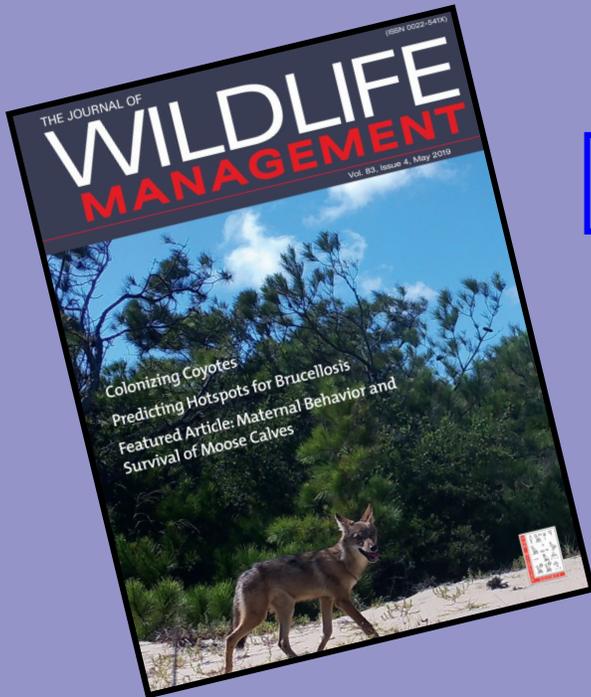
More than ever before, wildlife professionals from around the globe are turning to TWS journals as their source for the latest research findings in wildlife science and management. Here's what they're reading:

### Most Downloaded Articles in 2018

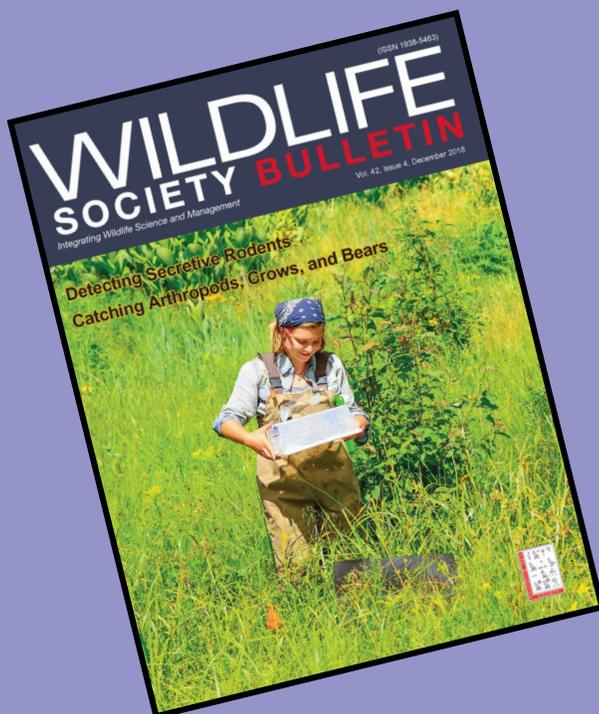
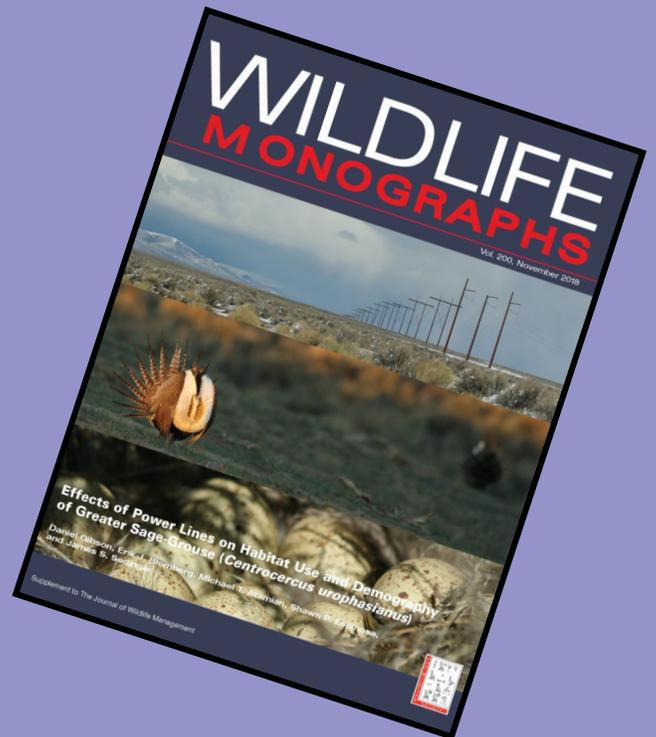
<b>Authors</b>	<b>Publication Title</b> (click for hyperlink)
Laake et al.	<a href="#"><i>Population growth and status of California sea lions</i></a>
Boan et al.	<a href="#"><i>From climate to caribou: How manufactured uncertainty is affecting wildlife management</i></a>
Coulson et al.	<a href="#"><i>Predicting the evolutionary consequences of trophy hunting on quantitative trait</i></a>
Cassirer et al.	<a href="#"><i>Pneumonia in bighorn sheep: Risk and resilience</i></a>
Edmunds et al.	<a href="#"><i>Chronic wasting disease influences activity and behavior in white tailed deer</i></a>
Heffelfinger	<a href="#"><i>Inefficiency of evolutionarily relevant selection in ungulate trophy hunting</i></a>
Boyce and Krausman	<a href="#"><i>Special section: Controversies in mountain sheep management</i></a>
Smith et al.	<a href="#"><i>Effects of rotational grazing management on nesting greater sage-grouse</i></a>
Mojica et al.	<a href="#"><i>Review and synthesis of research investigating golden eagle electrocutions</i></a>
Cusack et al.	<a href="#"><i>Applying a random encounter model to estimate lion density from camera traps in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania</i></a>

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



As a quick reminder, online access to all TWS journal articles is a benefit of TWS membership. To access, simply login to your TWS account through [Your Membership](#) or directly through the [TWS Journal Hub](#).



In addition to catching up on your 2018 reading, be sure to check out some of the most popular articles so far in 2019, like this recent [study](#), which suggests that the expanded range of coyotes has not curtailed deer populations in eastern US states...or this [paper](#) that explores the application of smartphone LIDAR in wildlife studies.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Continuing Education Grants



AZTWS offers \$2,500 annually in Continuing Education Grants to its members to support education and career goals. Grant requests should not exceed \$500 per application and are limited to current Chapter members only. Membership dues are \$6/year (Join or renew here). Only one grant is awarded per person, per year.

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of the Committee's review. The Continuing Education Committee evaluates applications based on your explanation of how the activity will enhance your career development, your financial need, your efforts to obtain supplemental funding, and your involvement in Chapter activities.

**Online Applications**  
**HERE**  
**Now accepting for 2019**

\*\*\*\*\*



We need **articles, stories, and pictures** for upcoming newsletters.

### *The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines*

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>Fall 2019</b>	<b>Sep 13, 2019</b>
<b>Winter 2020</b>	<b>Dec 13, 2019</b>

Email submissions to [aztwseeditor@gmail.com](mailto:aztwseeditor@gmail.com).