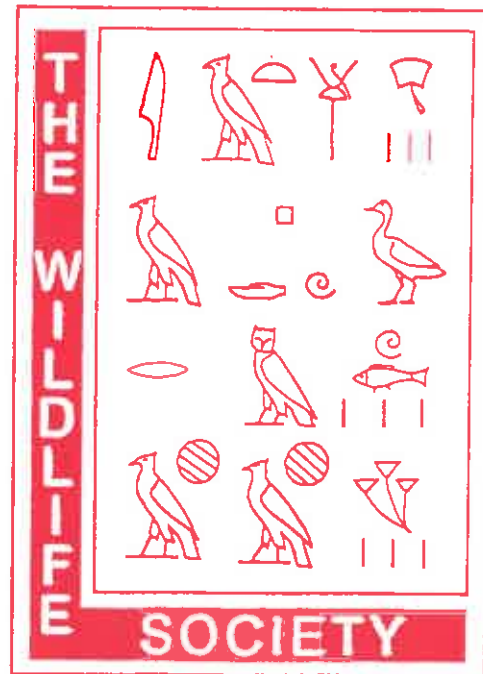


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Profile of Chapter Members Who Are Not Members of The Wildlife Society



March 2001

HDRU Series No. 01-2

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THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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INTRODUCTION

Periodically The Wildlife Society (TWS) has conducted surveys of representative samples of its membership. The last such survey was conducted in 1991 (Brown and Decker 1992). However, TWS has to this point had very little knowledge about people who are members of sections or chapters, but who are not members of the parent society. At a meeting of the TWS Council in 1999 in which further survey research was contemplated, the Council gave highest priority to developing a better understanding of the interests and needs of chapter members who are not members of TWS.

The TWS office does not keep a listing of names and addresses of chapter members who are not TWS members, nor did it know prior to undertaking this survey the precise magnitude of this group nationwide. An attempt was made to ascertain this information in early 2000. From responses by 21 chapters and computerized cross-checks with the national membership, 2,199 individual chapter members were identified who appeared not to be national members. Expanded to all chapters, this information suggested that chapter members who are not national TWS members comprise a group of roughly 50% of the magnitude of the parent society. This study was designed to learn more about this segment of chapter member, including how they evaluate TWS services, and their potential to become national members.

The remainder of this report will refer to the survey population and respondents as “chapter members” for brevity. It should be understood that this term refers only to chapter members who are NOT members of TWS.

METHODS

For this survey, TWS depended on the various chapter officers to provide mailing lists. Only lists from U.S. chapters were requested, and only 20 chapters cooperated initially by providing lists. HDRU staff mapped these cooperating chapters to assess their geographic distribution. The national representation of chapters appeared good, with two exceptions—the northeast and southern intermountain regions. A further appeal resulted in cooperation from one of these, but not for an additional western state from the southern portion of the intermountain area. Areas of the U.S. covered by cooperating chapters are shown in Figure 1.

Because of the limitations in obtaining a national probability sample of chapter members who are not TWS members, we can not conclusively state that the results of the survey will be representative of the real population we have attempted to study. We decided with the concurrence of TWS leaders to proceed with the survey for 2 reasons (1) the geographic distribution of chapters was generally good in our judgment, and (2) we had no reason to believe that sharp differences would be found in different parts of the U.S. in the general characteristics of chapter members, how they evaluate TWS services, and their potential to become national members.

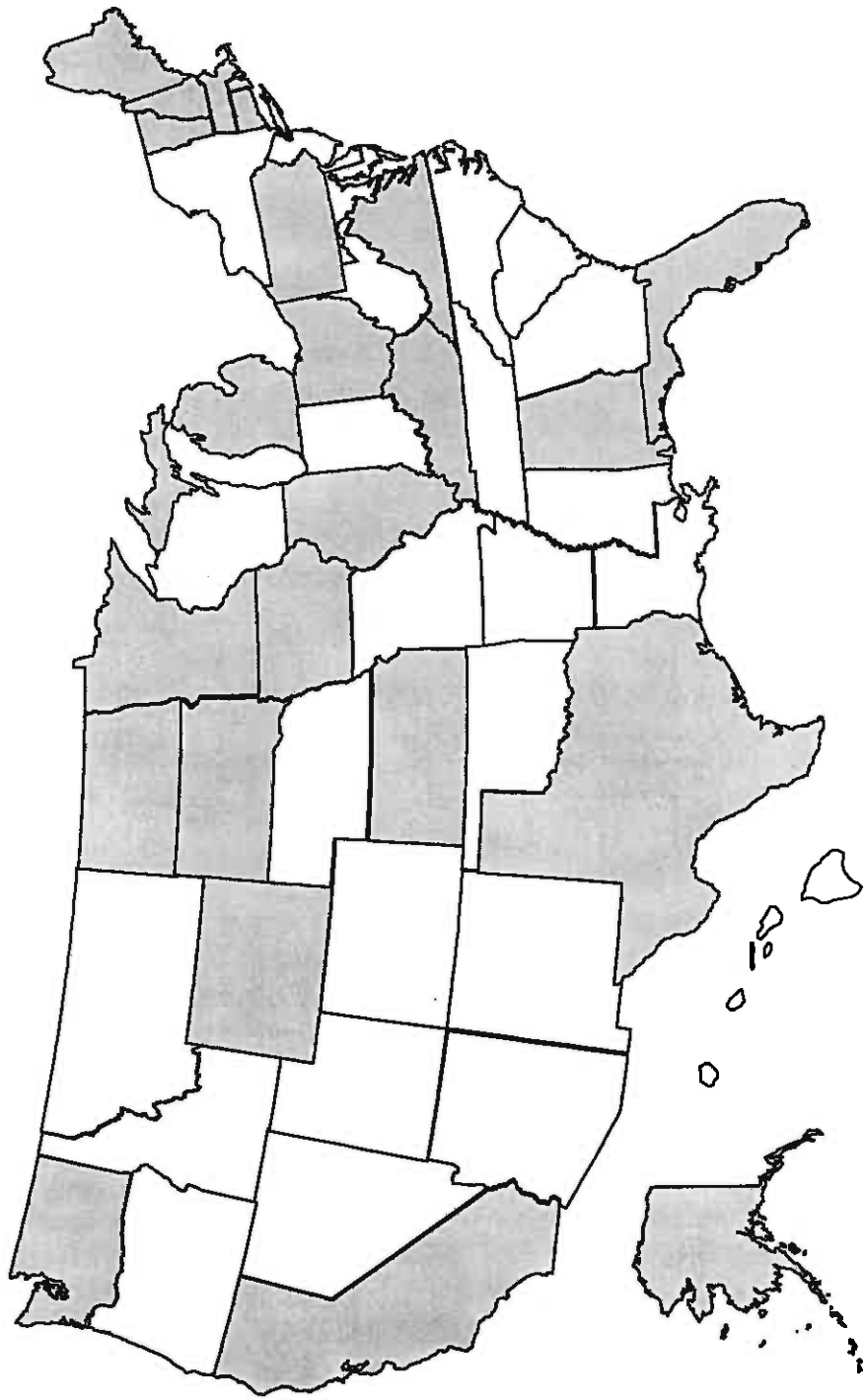


Figure 1. Location of participating TWS chapters.

HDRU staff drew a random sample of 1,000 of the 2,199 individuals identified from the 21 responding chapters and sent them a questionnaire by first-class mail on April 28, 2000. Up to three reminder letters were sent using standard professional mail survey techniques developed by Dillman (2000). The questionnaire was drafted by the authors based on input from TWS Council, and underwent a number of subsequent reviews by TWS Council, staff, and some members of the Membership Committee.

RESULTS

Of the 1,000 mail questionnaires initially sent, 154 (15.4%) were undeliverable. A total of 534 people receiving questionnaires responded (63.1%). However, 99 respondents indicated they currently were national members. Apparently the listing of their full names differed slightly between their chapter listing and the national listing (e.g., John Jones versus John Q. Jones). These 99 people simply indicated in the first question that they were national members and returned their questionnaire as instructed without completing any further items.

This left us with 435 chapter members who responded. The number of required responses for a sampling error within + or - 5% at the 95% level of confidence for questions involving categorical responses (e.g., male/female, yes/no, checking applicable response categories) is 400. Thus, all such estimates from this survey are within a sampling error of no larger than 5%. This type of general sampling error estimate is widely used in social surveys because most of the questions require a categorical answer as opposed to a numeric answer, and because every question has a slightly different sampling error because of differences in the distribution of responses. As an example of the use of this estimate, if the results showed that 30% of respondents read Publication X, we would expect this percentage to be between 25% and 35% in 95 of 100 separately drawn samples from the same population.

Profile of Chapter Members

In general, respondents were mid-career wildlife professionals, with over 90% employed within the profession (Table 1). Just over 50% were in managerial or administrative positions and were employed by a state or federal government agency. Their primary areas of expertise closely paralleled those most common for wildlife professionals generally (e.g., management of particular species, populations, and habitats (including wetlands)).

Respondents were predominantly male (80.4%), and had a mean age of 44 years, ranging from 21 to 90 years of age. They had been wildlife professionals for a mean of 17.3 years, and had been members of a TWS chapter for a mean of 11.4 years. About 24% had been chapter officers or involved in committee work during the previous 5 years. Over one-third (36.2%) were once TWS members. On average, respondents were last TWS members over 10 years ago (1989); 18.1% had been a member within the past 2 years.

Table 1. Professional profile of respondents

Consider themselves professionals in the wildlife field	84.9%		
Mean years having been a wildlife professional	17.3		
Currently employed in the wildlife profession	90.9%		
Primary nature of current position:			
Management	51.3%	Education	4.2%
Research	9.1	Law enforcement	3.9
Administration	6.8	Information and education	3.2
Technician	6.8	Extension	1.6
Legislative/regulatory	5.2	Other	7.8
Employer			
State government		49.4%	
Federal government		31.1%	
College or university		7.3	
Not for profit organization		4.9	
Self-employed		3.0	
Consulting firm or for-profit company		2.4	
Other		1.9	
Areas of expertise (up to 3 areas could be checked)			
Management of habitats	49.4%	Legislative/regulatory processes	3.9%
Wetlands	27.3	Oil and gas impacts	3.6
Management of populations	21.1	Land use policy	3.6
A species and its habitat requirements	16.4	Telemetry and remote sensing	3.6
Endangered species	14.5	Human dimensions	2.6
Non-game wildlife	12.5	Urban wildlife	2.0
Conservation biology	10.5	Mining impacts	2.0
Enforcement	9.5	International experience	1.6
Rangelands	9.2	Pathology and disease	1.0
Agricultural impacts	7.2	Computer applications	1.0
Forest practices	7.2	Physiology	1.0
Wildlife damage management	7.2	Toxicology	0.7
Information and education	7.2	Wildlife nutrition	0.7
Restoration ecology	6.6	Biometrics	0.7
Fire ecology	6.9	Wilderness ecology	0.3
Education	6.3	Exotic wildlife	0.3
GIS technology	5.3	Continuing education	0.3

Respondents initially were attracted to TWS chapters in several ways:

- 22.5% attended a meeting and decided to join on that basis;
- 19.4% wanted to contribute to their profession;
- 17.7% were recruited by a mentor or colleague early in their careers;
- 17.4% had a college professor who encouraged membership;
- 11.1% were recruited by classmates; and
- 11.9% were recruited in other ways (e.g., later in their careers; by their employers).

Involvement in TWS Chapters

Most respondents indicated 3 reasons for belonging to a chapter: networking with other wildlifers in the area where they live and work; gaining useful information about research, programs, and policies in their state; and the opportunity to participate in professional activities addressing local wildlife issues (Table 2). Nearly 40% also noted that the cost of chapter membership is commensurate with services and benefits received. Networking with other wildlifers and gaining useful information about research, programs, and policies in their state were each checked by roughly one-third of respondents as the most important reason for belonging to a chapter.

Of the 24.2% of respondents who indicated they had been active in their chapter sometime during the past 5 years, 33.0% had been a committee member; 31.9%, a committee chair; 11.7%, a secretary; 9.6%, a treasurer; 9.6%, a board member; and 6.4%, a president.

Table 2. Reasons for belonging to a TWS chapter.

Reason	-----Percent checking as: -----	
	Applicable	Most important
Networking with other area wildlifers	77.0	35.9
Gain useful information about research, programs, and policies in my state	76.8	36.8
Opportunity to participate in professional opportunities addressing local wildlife issues	57.8	11.0
Cost of membership at local level is commensurate with services and benefits received	39.4	5.0
Take advantage of continuing education programs offered by the chapter	21.3	3.6
Opportunities for volunteer and leadership roles are available to me at this level	15.8	2.7
Other	7.7	5.0

Reasons given for not belong to TWS centered around local-to-state orientations of respondents and membership cost (Table 3). A fairly high proportion listed “other” reasons than those listed for this question. About 4.1% indicated they were not familiar with national TWS or its programs; 4.1% indicated the cost of membership was too high; and 3.4% indicated they belong to other organizations and there is a limit to how many they can afford to join. Other diverse reasons (retired; can get publications at work; national TWS is too focused on research and academics; more active in AFS) were cited each by less than 2% of respondents.

Table 3. Reasons for not belonging to national TWS.

Reason	-----Percent checking as: -----	
	Applicable	Most important
Services offered are not of interest to me	62.4	2.5
Cost of membership not worth services received	52.4	31.1
More interested in local and state issues	41.7	23.2
Employer does not support participation	26.3	7.3
Opportunities for leadership and volunteer positions in national TWS are remote	9.3	1.1
Don't know many wildlifers outside my state	9.1	1.4
Perceive national TWS as too focused on game species	7.9	3.1
Interest in wildlife is very specific; not addressed by TWS	4.9	2.0
Other	35.7	28.2

Perception of How TWS Affects Professional Status

Respondents generally felt that chapters, sections, and national TWS reinforce the standing of members of the profession to a moderate extent within the wildlife profession, and to a slight-to-moderate extent outside the profession (Table 4). Perceived differences between chapters, sections, and national TWS in this regard were not statistically significant.

Table 4. Perceived extent to which TWS entities reinforce status of the wildlife profession (4-point scale where 0 = not at all, 1 = slight, 2 = moderate, 3 = great).

	Among Members of Wildlife Profession	Outside the Wildlife Profession
TWS chapters	2.0	1.6
TWS sections	1.7	1.4
National TWS	1.8	1.5

Assessment of Publications, Services, and Programs

Less than 25% of respondents typically read the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, and 44% rarely read it (Table 5). Even fewer respondents read the two other major TWS publications. Less than 3% had submitted a manuscript to any of the three major TWS publications in the past 3 years. Those who were familiar with TWS journals rated the content of the material to be moderately important to very important (Table 6), and rated the range of content as about right (Table 7). However, one-third to one-half of respondents had little familiarity with the publications, which is reflected in the high number who checked the “no opinion” option on these topics.

Table 5. Percent of respondents who read TWS publications and have submitted a manuscript to them within the last 3 years.

TWS Publication	Typically Read	Sometimes Read	Rarely Read	Submitted Manuscript In Last 3 Years
<i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>	23.0	33.0	44.0	2.7
<i>Journal Wildlife Management</i>	11.3	35.1	53.6	2.5
<i>Wildlife Monographs</i>	8.2	24.1	67.7	0.5

Table 6. Perceived importance of publication content to the wildlife profession (percent).

TWS Publication	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	No Opinion
<i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>	1.0	7.6	32.6	26.0	32.8
<i>Journal Wildlife Management</i>	1.5	5.8	24.1	35.5	33.0
<i>Wildlife Monographs</i>	1.5	7.5	25.3	23.2	42.5

Table 7. Perceived range of contemporary wildlife management concerns addressed by TWS publications (percent).

TWS Publication	Too Narrow	About Right	Too Broad	No Opinion
<i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i>	5.9	46.3	2.0	45.8
<i>Journal Wildlife Management</i>	11.1	39.1	3.3	46.5
<i>Wildlife Monographs</i>	9.2	31.7	2.9	56.3

The modal rating for all types of meetings and conferences, from chapter meetings through the International Wildlife Management Congress, was “moderately important” (Table 8). The mean score was highest for chapter meetings, however, and reflected the results of other questions suggesting that these chapter members are primarily focused toward local and state-level activities.

Table 8. Rating of TWS-related meetings and conferences.

Type of TWS Meeting	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Mean Score ¹
	-----Percent-----				
Chapter meetings and field trips	0.9	9.2	43.8	46.0	2.3
Section meetings/conferences	7.2	28.6	43.2	21.0	1.8
TWS annual conferences	13.4	27.6	36.4	22.5	1.7
International Wildlife Management Congress	22.5	27.6	31.2	18.7	1.5

¹ Mean score is on a 4-point scale from 0 (not important) through 3 (very important).

Respondents indicated that the 15 TWS working groups increase the value of membership in TWS to a moderate extent. On a 4-point scale (0 = not at all, 1 = slightly, 2 = moderately, and 3 = greatly), the mean response was 2.1. Only 14% chose an answer less than “moderately;” however, 22% had no opinion.

Respondents also were asked about the value of *The Wildlifer* and on-line discussion groups (in a single question). On the same 4-point scale as denoted in the preceding paragraph, the mean response was 1.6. An even greater number, 37%, indicated “don’t know.”

Certification

The 77% of respondents who felt they could rate the TWS certification program had a wide range of views about its effectiveness (Table 9). On a 4-point scale where 0 = not at all, 1 = slight, 2 = moderate, 3 = great, the mean response for the extent to which the TWS certification program advances the standing of wildlife biologists to the public was 1.4, which is in the slight to moderate range. Concerning the extent to which the TWS certification program strengthens the professional qualifications of wildlife biologists, the mean response was 1.6, again in the slight to moderate range.

The vast majority (78%) indicated the certification program had no effect on their decision to become a TWS member; 7% indicated the program encouraged them, and 15% indicated the program discouraged them vis-a-vis membership. The vast majority (82%) are not currently certified and have no plans to become certified. The other 18% are evenly split; 9% are currently certified, and 9% plan to seek certification within the next 3 years.

Table 9. Ratings of TWS certification program

Extent to which TWS Certification program:	Not at all	Slight	Moderate	Great	Don't Know
Advances professional standing of biologists to the public	17.2	24.2	23.1	12.0	23.5
Strengthens professional quali- fications of biologists	11.5	20.2	33.1	12.0	23.2

Wildlife Policy Program

With regard to TWS involvement in wildlife policy, the vast majority of respondents (80%) indicated it was very important for TWS to be involved in governmental affairs to influence wildlife policy. Only 3% said it was slightly important; none said it was unimportant (11% indicated "moderately important"; 6% checked "don't know." The modal response to the effectiveness of the wildlife policy program was "don't know" (41%). Most respondents with opinions considered the program "moderately effective" (27%); 18%, "somewhat effective;" and 10% "very effective." Few (3.5%) regarded the program as not at all effective.

How Can TWS Better Serve These Chapter Members?

The responses to 4 concluding questions indicate that for most of these respondents, TWS can do little to improve services for these chapter members. In response to the question of

whether respondents have unmet professional development needs that TWS might help address, 84% replied “No.” The 16% who indicated “Yes” and provided write-in comments replied in many areas, none of which were mentioned often. Probably the single largest theme was a response that would be difficult for the national office—to work more on state-and-local-level issues. A few respondents indicated that providing more information about TWS and more general communication from TWS would be helpful; and a few respondents were interested in correspondence courses or courses offered at local colleges that might lead to or contribute toward certification or toward a Master’s degree.

In answer to whether any change TWS could make in its member products or programs would cause respondents to want to become TWS members, 35% offered comments with a meaningful suggestion. The greatest single category of these (29% of comments; 10% of all respondents) was to lower membership cost, create more membership levels such that respondents would have a lower-cost membership alternative, or restructure membership so that a chapter member is also a national member. The next broad category of responses dealt with communication (19% of comments, 6% of all respondents) and took 2 forms. The first indicated a lack of awareness of what TWS does beyond the chapter level and sometimes indicated that these people had never been sent information and an invitation or sales pitch to join. The second stressed the desire for additional internet communication, including journals, newsletters, etc. Many other responses were by people who indicated they are retired or working in other associated fields. A number of remarks did not deal with services and are better captured in the next topic.

The final question in this sequence asked whether “anything about the organization really annoys you.” A total of 101 respondents (23%) stated concerns. The largest cluster of 26 comments (these were grouped by judgment, not by any statistical algorithm) concerned the certification program. These ranged from people who are philosophically opposed to certification to people who have extensive background in biology or a wildlife degree but do not qualify for certification. The high cost of certification also was listed by several individuals.

The second largest grouping of 20 responses was concerned with TWS’s lack of focus on field work, including local issues, and working with other environmental and natural resource organizations at the local level. Some of these responses also saw TWS as arrogant or elitist (“too good” to work on local on-the-ground topics). A third group of 16 responses were concerned about the cost of participating in TWS activities. A fourth group (11 respondents) saw TWS as too “hunt-and-fish” or game-oriented for a modern wildlife organization. A number of other concerns were mentioned but by just a few individuals. These included the lack of a public outreach program, lack of greater activity in international issues, and lack of relevance of journal manuscripts to some individuals.

What about TWS is Valuable and Important to the Profession?

The final write-in question asked for feedback about positive aspects of TWS for the wildlife profession. A total of 195 (45%) provided responses, 172 (40%) of which included a positive aspect. Those most frequently mentioned were:

- A professional focus for networking and exchange of scientific and professional information (34 responses).
- Influence on legislation and informing of legislative representatives (30 responses),
- Objective, scientific research or investigation of issues (21 responses),
- Communication to the membership (20 responses), and
- Publications (20 responses)

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study suggest that in terms of age, gender, and tenure in the profession, these chapter members are similar to TWS members as determined from the 1991 survey (Brown et al. 1992, 1994). Chapter members from the current study were 80% male, had a mean age of 44, and over 90% were employed within the wildlife profession. TWS members in 1991 were 81% male, and had a mean age of 41. We expect that the vast majority of TWS members were employed in the profession, although we did not report an estimate from the 1991 study.

However, the results of this study strongly suggest that most chapter members who are not TWS members have a different orientation from TWS members. Namely, the chapter members covered by this survey tend to be oriented to local, regional (sub-state), or state-level topics. They are much more likely to be field-oriented in their work and their interests. Many were aware of TWS national activities (36% had been members at one time), although smaller numbers indicated in comments that they had little sense of what TWS does at the national level. Chapter members were much less likely to read the national wildlife literature. For example, 81% of 1991 TWS members indicated they typically read *WSB*, and 77% typically read *JWM*. This compares sharply to 23% and 11%, respectively, for chapter respondents from the current survey.

The combination of differences in interest and orientation between most of these chapter members and the national TWS, coupled with concerns expressed about the cost of TWS membership, indicates that it would be very difficult to recruit a large number of these people as members. However, both for the purpose of attempting to reach out to these chapter members, and for any increase in membership that might result, we suggest that appropriate TWS committees conduct the following additional investigations:

1. Examine the feasibility (including cost and revenue implications) of an additional membership structure that for a moderate fee would give chapter members national

membership status. This might include ability to reach a web-version of *The Wildlifer* or similar newsletter, but not TWS journals (at a minimum rate).

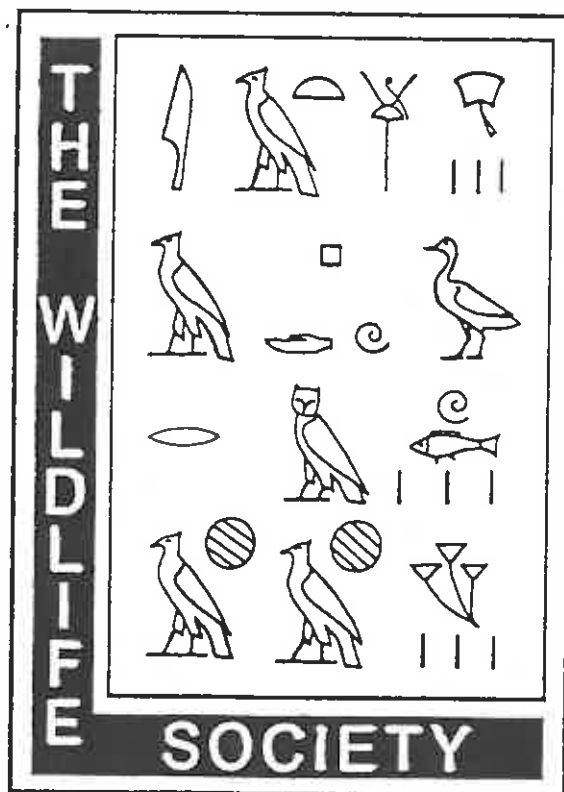
2. Examine the feasibility of a structure that would let TWS obtain names and addresses of all chapter members to facilitate communication with this group and offer them membership.
3. Examine other ways to facilitate communication with these members. This might include devoting increased attention to having a TWS member representative give updates at chapter meetings, or developing an increased capability for TWS to have additional involvement in state-level issues.

The challenges of expanding the purview of TWS to coincide perfectly with the needs and interests of these chapter members probably is overwhelming and unrealistic. However, any further steps that could be taken toward narrowing the differences in orientation of the two groups, plus enhancing communication, would have the possibility of a modest increase in membership, plus perhaps more importantly, combating some of the negative images a number of these members have of TWS as being elitist and out of touch with front-line wildlife managers.

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SURVEY OF CHAPTER MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



SURVEY OF CHAPTER MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Research conducted by the Human Dimensions Research Unit
in the Department of Natural Resources
at Cornell University

Sponsored by
The Wildlife Society
National/International Office, Bethesda, MD

The Wildlife Society (TWS) strives to meet the needs of its members at all levels—national, chapter, and section. Periodically, TWS surveys a sample of its members to evaluate the services it provides and to determine other services that its members would like. This survey is directed at a sample of people who are members of TWS chapters throughout the U.S., but who are not members of the TWS national organization. (National-level members were surveyed previously.) Your name was drawn at random from a list of members provided by TWS chapters across the country.

Please complete this questionnaire at your earliest convenience. Then simply seal it and mail it back to us (return postage has been provided). Please note that it is standard practice in conducting professional mail surveys to send several reminder notices to encourage a high response rate that is representative of the entire survey population. Your prompt response will save The Wildlife Society additional postage expense and also remove your name from our mailing list so that we do not continue to send you reminder notices. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, please write a note to this effect at the top of this page and simply return the questionnaire to us immediately.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE!

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is a national and international organization. For the purpose of this survey, however, we will refer to it as a national organization to distinguish it from student or state/provincial chapters and regional sections.

This questionnaire was sent to you in the belief that you currently are NOT a member of the national TWS organization but that you ARE a member of a TWS chapter. Is this true?

- Yes. [Please complete this questionnaire and return it.]
 No. [Please stop here and return the questionnaire without completing it.]

A. Personal and Professional Profile

1. Do you consider yourself a professional in the wildlife field (versus another profession)?

No (*Skip to Question #5.*)

Yes ↴

If "yes," how long have you been a wildlife professional? ___ years

2. Are you currently employed in the wildlife profession?

No (*Skip to question #4.*)

Yes ↴

If "yes", what is the nature of your current position? (*Check the one best choice.*)

Administration

Management

Education

Research

Extension

Legislative/Regulatory

Information and Education

Technician

Law Enforcement

Other

3. Who is your current employer? (*Check one response below.*)

state government

not-for-profit organization

federal government

self-employed

tribal government

consulting firm

college/university

for-profit company

retired (if retired, who did you work for prior to retirement? _____)

other (please specify: _____)

4. What are your areas of wildlife expertise? (Check up to 3 areas below.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Management of Populations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biometrics | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Species and its Habitat Requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> Nongame Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Applications | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil & Gas Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Damage Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxicology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EIS Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Physiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exotic Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology & Disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Ecology | <input type="checkbox"/> Telemetry & Remote Sensing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Dimensions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genetics | <input type="checkbox"/> International Experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rangelands | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Biology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information & Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Ecology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Ecology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative & Regulatory Processes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management of Habitats | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

5. Please indicate your current age: _____ years; and sex: Female Male

6. How did you get started as a member of a TWS chapter? (Check one):

- I was recruited by classmates to join as a student chapter member.
- I had a professor in college who encouraged membership.
- I was recruited by a mentor/colleague early in my career.
- I attended a TWS meeting and decided to join based on that experience.
- I wanted to contribute to my profession.
- Other? _____

B. Involvement in TWS

7. How long have you been a member of a TWS chapter? _____ years

8. Why do you belong to a TWS chapter? *(Check all that apply.)*

- Networking with other wildlifers in area where I live and work.
- Opportunities to participate in professional activities addressing local wildlife issues.
- Gain useful information about research, programs, and policies in my state.
- Take advantage of continuing education programs offered by the chapter.
- Opportunities for volunteer and leadership roles are accessible to me—I can make a difference at this level.
- Cost of membership at local level is commensurate with services and benefits received.
- Other reasons *(Please specify: _____)*

Now, review the items you checked above and please circle the checked box that signifies the most important reason.

9. Have you been involved in committee work, served as an officer, or held any other volunteer position at the chapter level of TWS during the last 5 years?

- No
- Yes: *(Please indicate the volunteer roles you have had in a TWS chapter during the last 5 years: _____)*

10. Our records indicate you are not a member of the national TWS organization. Have you ever been a member at the national level?

- Yes, I once was a member; I was last a member in 19____.
- No, I was never a member of the national TWS organization.

11. Why don't you belong to the national TWS organization? *(Check all that apply.)*

- Services offered by the Society aren't of interest to me.
- Cost of membership is not worth the services and benefits I would receive.
- I am more interested in local and state wildlife issues than in national and global issues.
- Opportunities for leadership and volunteer roles in the national TWS organization are remote for me.
- My employer does not support my participation (paid time to participate, travel cost, meeting fees, membership dues, etc.) in the national TWS organization.
- I perceive national TWS as having too much focus on game species.
- I don't know many wildlifers from outside my state.
- My interest in wildlife is very specific and not addressed by national TWS.
- Other reason. *(Please specify: _____.)*

Now, review the items you checked above and please circle the checked box that signifies the most important reason.

12. Most professions and scientific disciplines have formed professional associations or scientific societies in part to reinforce the professional status of their members. This has two foci—status among members of the profession and status as a profession among people outside of it. In your opinion, to what extent do activities of TWS chapters, sections or the national organization reinforce the status of the wildlife professional:

12.1 Reinforce professional status among members of the profession (*check one response for each level of TWS*):

- a. TWS chapters not at all slight moderate great
- b. TWS sections not at all slight moderate great
- c. National TWS not at all slight moderate great

12.2 Reinforce status of the wildlife profession among people outside the profession (*check one response for each level of TWS*):

- a. TWS chapters not at all slight moderate great
- b. TWS Sections not at all slight moderate great
- c. National not at all slight moderate great

C. Assessment of TWS Publications, Services, and Programs

Publications

13. Please indicate whether you typically read, or have submitted a manuscript to the following TWS publications within the last 3 years (*check all that apply for each publication*):

<u>TWS Publication</u>	<u>Typically Read</u>	<u>Sometimes Read</u>	<u>Rarely Read</u>	<u>In Last 3 Years Submitted Manuscript</u>
<i>Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>J. Wildlife Management (JWM)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Wildlife Monographs (WM)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. What is your appraisal of the *Wildlife Society Bulletin (WSB)*, *Journal of Wildlife Management (JWM)*, and *Wildlife Monographs (WM)*, over the past 3 years, for the 2 characteristics indicated below? (Check one response below for each publication.)

A. **Importance of Content to the Profession**

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
<i>WSB</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>JWM</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>WM</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. **Range of Contemporary Wildlife Management Concerns Addressed**

	<u>Too Narrow</u>	<u>About Right</u>	<u>Too Broad</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
<i>WSB</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>JWM</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>WM</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Meetings

15. A traditional role for TWS at all levels has been the sponsorship of scientific/technical meetings and conferences. Please indicate the relative importance you place on the types of meetings listed below: (Check one response below for each item.)

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
TWS chapter meetings and field trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWS section meetings/conferences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National TWS annual conferences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWS sponsored International Wildlife Management Congress (Held periodically outside the U.S.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Working Groups

TWS currently has 15 working groups on topics ranging from biological diversity to wildlife damage management. Working groups organize symposia, operate online discussion groups, and publish newsletters among other activities. Membership in working groups is open to all members of the national TWS organization.

16. To what extent do you think working groups increase the value of membership in TWS?
(Check one response below.)

- Not at all Slightly Moderately Greatly No opinion

Certification

TWS recently strengthened the certification program by requiring individuals certified after December 31, 1999 to renew their certification every five years through a program of continuing education.

17. In your opinion, to what extent does TWS's certification program advance the professional standing of wildlife biologists to the public? (Check one response below.)

- Not at all Slight Moderate Great Don't Know

18. To what extent does TWS's certification program strengthen the professional qualifications of wildlife biologists? (Check one response below.)

- Not at all Slight Moderate Great Don't Know

19. Does TWS's certification program encourage, discourage, or have no effect on your decision to become a national member of TWS? (Check one response below.)

- Encourages Discourages No Effect

20. Are you a Certified Wildlife Biologist or Associate Wildlife Biologist, or do you intend to become certified in the next 3 years? (Check one response below.)

- Yes, I currently have certification
- I am not certified now, but plan to become certified within the next 3 years.
- I am not certified now and have no specific plans to become certified within the next 3 years.

Communications

21. TWS members receive the bimonthly newsletter *The Wildlifer* and may participate in TWS's online discussion group. To what extent do these news and information-exchange services increase the value of membership in TWS? (*Check one response below.*)

- Not at all Slight Moderate Great Don't Know

Wildlife Policy Program

22. TWS has a wildlife policy program through which the Society communicates with policy makers, other conservation organizations and TWS members on many issues of importance to wildlife conservation at the federal level.

a. How important do you feel it is for TWS to be involved in government affairs to influence wildlife policy? (*Check one response below.*)

- Not Important Slightly Important Moderately Important Very Important Don't Know

b. How effective has TWS wildlife policy program been in influencing key legislation affecting wildlife conservation? (*Check one response below.*)

- Not at all Effective Somewhat Effective Moderately Effective Very Effective Don't Know

D. How can we serve you better?

23. Do you have professional development needs currently going unmet that TWS could assist you with?

- No
 Yes—What are these?

24. Is there any change that the national TWS organization could make in its member products, services or programs that would make you want to become a national member? *(Please write clearly.)*

25. Is there anything about the national TWS organization that really annoys you?

26. What about the national TWS organization is really valuable and important to the profession?

Thank you for your time and assistance!

The Wildlife Society appreciates your input and will use it to improve the organization.



