

Activity Report 2022/2023



Wisconsin Center for Wildlife



Wisconsin Center for Wildlife
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Wisconsin Center for Wildlife

Our Mission

To engage students, landowners, professionals, and the public in sustainable wildlife management through research, education, and outreach.

Goals

The WCW works to achieve its mission through five primary goals:

- Increase public awareness and understanding of wildlife management
- Increase knowledge and skills of wildlife students and professionals
- Increase networking and engagement within the wildlife community
- Promote conservation of wildlife and their habitats
- Resolve human-wildlife conflicts

Endowments

The WCW is composed of four Endowed Professors (also called "Primaries") whose work is largely funded through the following endowments:

- Douglas R. Stephens Chair in Wildlife Endowment
- Kennedy-Grohne Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Endowment
- Gerald and Helen Stephens Professor in Wildlife Endowment
- The Douglas and Carol Federighi Graduate Assistantship
- **New in 2023!** The Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Endowment

Interim Director - Shelli Dubay, Ph.D.

Shelli Dubay, a professor of Wildlife at UW-Stevens Point, has been appointed as the interim WCW Director after Scott Hygnstrom's retirement in January 2024. Dubay obtained her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wyoming and has been associated with the UW-Stevens Point Wildlife Discipline since 2005. Her primary research interest is wildlife health, though her graduate students have studied the nesting behaviors of whooping cranes and nest selection of red-shouldered hawks. Dubay has served on many committees and was the wildlife discipline Chair. As the most senior member of the wildlife discipline, Dubay has a record of accomplishing complex goals and mitigating change. She has a fondness for small mammals, but her love for her dachshund, Fritz, and her daughter, Maeve, are the greatest.



Faculty, Staff, and Students

WCW Primaries



Scott Hygnstrom, Ph.D.
Douglas R Stephens
Chair in Wildlife
Professor and Extension
Wildlife Specialist



Ben Sedinger Ph.D.
Kennedy-Grohne
Chair in Waterfowl and
Wetlands Conservation
and Associate Professor



Jason Riddle, Ph.D.
Gerald and Helen
Stephens Professor
of Wildlife



Cady Sartini, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
for the Wisconsin Black
Bear Project and
Associate Professor

Staff and Student Employees



Jennifer Summers
Program Development
Specialist



Brilyn Brecka
Teaching Assistant



Nicole Luoma
Teaching Assistant



Aneli Zetino
Teaching Assistant



Ava Cross-Weisbeck
Teaching Assistant



Jeffrey Edwards
Teaching Assistant



Noah Andexler
Project Assistant



Catrina Johnson
Project Assistant

Special Thanks to Our Funders:

Douglas R. Stephens Chair in Wildlife Endowment and Gerald and Helen Stephens Professor in Wildlife Endowments

The Douglas R. Stephens Chair in Wildlife and the Gerald and Helen Stephens Professorship in Wildlife endowments represent a cornerstone of support for wildlife research, outreach, education, and related activities at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources. The Douglas R. Stephens Endowment provides direct research support, professional travel, graduate student initiatives, and faculty-mentored projects. It is important to note that the fund is solely dedicated to these purposes and does not cover the Chair's salary or benefits. On the other hand, the Gerald and Helen Stephens Professorship provides funding for initiatives such as research support, professional travel, student collaborations, mentorship activities, and enhancing professor compensation for the endowed professor. These endowments, established by Gerald and Helen Stephens, embody their commitment to honoring their son's memory and continue to play a vital role in shaping the university community's wildlife program.



Gerald and Helen Stephens

Kennedy-Grohne Waterfowl and Wetlands Endowment

The Kennedy-Grohne Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation Endowment, established by James C. Kennedy and David F. Grohne for their dedication to waterfowl and wetlands preservation, supports research, outreach, and activities at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This endowment funds graduate and undergraduate opportunities, travel, research, publications, equipment, and outreach efforts. The Chair encourages mentorship, advises the Ducks Unlimited student chapter, secures funding, publishes research, organizes events, improves courses, and leads in wetlands and waterfowl conservation. Long-term goals include strengthening education, expanding research, attracting students to careers in conservation, increasing graduate applications, and fostering collaboration.

Douglas T. and Carol J. Federighi Waterfowl Endowment

The Douglas and Carol Federighi Waterfowl Endowment Fund was established to honor Douglas and Carol Federighi. This fund supports graduate Assistantships and undergraduate Fellowships for research on waterfowl and wetlands conservation within the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at UW-Stevens Point. Named awards include the Douglas and Carol Federighi Waterfowl Graduate Assistantship and the Douglas Federighi Waterfowl Undergraduate Fellowship. The endowment aims to attract top students, foster leadership, and advance research in waterfowl conservation. Under faculty mentorship, it contributes to the long-term goals of strengthening waterfowl education, expanding research opportunities, and honoring Douglas Federighi's legacy in wetlands preservation and restoration.

Collaborators and Partners

The WCW collaborated or partnered with the following organizations to develop research projects, workshops, student opportunities, and more in 2022 and 2023.

State and Federal Agencies

- UW-Madison Division of Extension
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Necedah National Wildlife Refuge
- Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
- Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Department of Agriculture
- Wildlife Services and National Wildlife Research Center
- National Science Foundation
- National Ecological Observatory Network

UW-Stevens Point Organizations

- Wisconsin Forestry Center
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman
- Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited

Non-Governmental Organizations

- Pheasants Forever
- Delta Waterfowl
- Ducks Unlimited
- Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
- International Crane Foundation
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Academy
- Boone and Crockett
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Aldo Leopold Foundation
- American Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Universities

- Drake University
- Cornell University
- Southern Illinois University
- Kansas State University
- University of Texas - El Paso

Private Organizations

- Tau Consultants LTD
- National Wildlife Control Training Program
- River Valley Raptors

Director's Corner

Over the past two years, the WCW has achieved success due to the exceptional individuals who have been involved in its various projects and programs. Jason Riddle, Ben Sedinger, and Cady Sartini have been the primary collaborators of the WCW, and they work closely with their colleagues in the Wildlife Discipline, such as Shelli Dubay, Marie Perkins, and Chris Yahnke. The Wildlife Faculty meets every Friday afternoon to discuss curriculum, facilities, students, and programs. These gatherings foster close relationships among the group members. Jennifer Summers has been the WCW Program Development Specialist, managing programs on youth development, wildlife in art, and drones, while also handling most of the administrative responsibilities for WCW faculty.

The WCW attracted many talented students over the last two years, who assisted with various programs and projects. Brilyn Brecka, Nicole Luoma, Ava Cross-Weisbeck, and Aneli Zetino served as Teaching Assistants (TAs) for Wildlife 150 Living with Wildlife. Jeffrey Edwards was the TA for Wildlife 334 Ungulate Ecology and Management in 2022, and Jacob Bergstrand was the TA for Wildlife 348 Wildlife Damage Management in 2023. Noah Andexler coordinated the WCW Outdoor Skills and Safety Program, and Alayna Corbisier, Catrina Johnson, Nicole Luoma, and Carson Veath assisted him in his efforts. In 2022, Brilyn and Jeffrey were recognized with the UW-Stevens Point Chancellor's Leadership Award and the prestigious Albertson Leadership Award. Noah also received the Aldo Leopold Undergraduate Scholarship in 2022 from the Wisconsin Chapter of The

Wildlife Society (TWS). Alayna was recognized by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with a Wildlife Leadership Award in 2022. Nicole received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the North Central Section of TWS in 2022. These students are truly outstanding!

The CNR Spring Seminar Series in 2022 had the theme Decision Making in Natural Resources Management and featured six presenters from the Wisconsin Legislature, Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Speakers addressed challenging issues and provided insights on how we might better navigate the bio-political landscape. In 2023, the theme for the Seminar Series was the Science and Culture of Black Bears, coordinated by Cady Sartini and featuring black bear experts from the WDNR, as well as Missouri, Florida, and the Ojibwe Nation. More than 100 people attended each seminar, either in-person or online. A multimedia display in the West Lobby of the Trainer Natural Resources Building was also installed to inform students, staff, and the public of current activities in the CNR.



Scott Hygnstrom holds a black bear cub while assisting on the black bear project.

In July 2023, I hosted two back-to-back conferences in Madison, including the Extension Wildlife Specialists Triennial Conference and the Conservation Education and Outreach Working Group Conference. Fifty-four professionals from across the nation participated in sessions on Partnering with Private Landowners, Communicating with Indigenous Communities, and A Land Ethic for Our Time. The WCW sponsored and Jennifer and I facilitated Annual Meetings of the Wisconsin Chapter of TWS (WCTWS) in 2022 and 2023. The meeting in 2023 celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the WCTWS and included a social and program for almost 300 past and current members. The WCW sponsored four UW-Stevens Point students at the Annual Conference of TWS in Spokane in November 2022 and Louisville in October 2023. The UW-Stevens Point Student Chapter of TWS received the Student Chapter of the Year Award from TWS in 2023! We hosted a reception for over 150 UW-Stevens Point alumni and friends at the Conference, where old friendships were rekindled and new ones formed. I was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award at a meeting of the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group in 2022, an honor that I greatly appreciate.

We continued our collaborative efforts with Mike Demchik (UW-Stevens Point-Forestry), Haley Frater, and Susan Barrett (UW-Stevens Point-CNR-Wisconsin Forestry Center), and others on a series of workshops and demonstration areas to promote forest management practices for wildlife. With Mike's leadership, we secured a \$300,000 grant from the US Forest Service for a project on bird populations and forest management. Teamwork made everything possible.

In 1980-1983, I was a student at UW-Stevens Point pursuing a Masters Degree in Natural Resources. Under the mentorship of my advisor, Dr. James Hardin, I realized that I wanted a career in wildlife and to teach and conduct research at a university. I never imagined that I would spend the next 5 years at UW-Madison and the following 26 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln doing what I love. Fate led me back to UW-Stevens Point, and I am grateful for it.

Director, WCW

Outreach Events and Activities

CNR Spring Seminar Series

2022

8th Annual CNR Spring Seminar Series, "History, Successes, and Challenges in Natural Resources Decision-Making."

- 6 seminars
- Attended by 315 people total
- 30 to 75 people at each seminar, in person and online
- Seminar recordings viewed online 75 - 295 times

2023

9th Annual CNR Spring Seminar Series, co-organized with Cady Sartini. "The Science and Culture of Black Bears: Human Perspectives on a Large Carnivore"

- 7 seminars
- Attended by 375 people total
- 55 to 95 people at each seminar, in person and online
- Seminar recordings viewed online 150 to 477 times

History, Successes, and Challenges in Natural Resources Decision-Making
2022 CNR Spring Seminar Series
Wednesdays, 4 - 5 p.m.
170 Trainer Natural Resources Building
UW-Stevens Point Campus

February 16	Scott Walter, Executive Director, Kickapoo Valley Reserve
March 2	State Representative Katrina Shankland, WI 71st Assembly District
March 16	Tony Blattler, Chair, Wisconsin Conservation Congress
March 30	Christine Thomas, Dean Emerita and Professor Emerita, UW-Stevens Point
April 6	Dan Baumann, Secretary's Director, West Central Region, WDNR
April 20	Greg Kazmierski, Chair, Wisconsin Natural Resources Board
April 27	MaąSusga (Don Greendeer), Community Health and Wellness, Ho-Chunk Nation

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Recordings of seminars from both the 2022 and 2023 Seminar Series can be viewed at: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr/WCW/Pages/WCW-Seminar-Series.aspx>

**The Science and Culture of Black Bears:
Human Perspectives on a Large Carnivore**
2023 CNR Spring Seminar Series
UW-Stevens Point

Wisconsin Center for Wildlife
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

WISCONSIN
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Student/Professional Workshops

Introduction to Raptor Husbandry, co-organized with Shelli Dubay and River Valley Raptors:
2022 - attended by 16 students and 2 professionals
2023 - attended by 15 students and 5 professionals

Outreach Events and Activities

Jennifer Summers

Youth Engagement - STEAM and College Days for Kids workshops

Deer Jaw Aging Workshop 2022

- Instructed 9 times at 3 different on-campus youth events
- Taught to 261 Middle School Students
- Trained and engaged 16 UW-Stevens Point wildlife student volunteers

2023

- Instructed 6 times at 3 on-campus youth events
- Taught to 175 middle school students
- Trained 12 UW-Stevens Point wildlife student volunteers



Middle school students learn to age deer jaws at a workshop at College Days for Kids 2022, a youth event on the UW-Stevens Point campus

Drones in Natural Resource Management Workshop

- Instructed 4 STEAM Point days to 16 middle school students
- Instructed 3 STEAM Point days at Treehaven, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)-

Jennifer Summers was an invited instructor and speaker at the BOW Winter Weekend, 2022

- Co-organized and co-instructed Wisconsin Winter Wildlife Ecology and Mammal Tracking with WDNR Furbearer Biologist Jenna Melinowski. - 15 participants
- Evening presentation: "Bats! Research, Biology, Benefits," delivered to 40 people

Wildlife Conservation Through Art Program

- Drawing Wildlife from Reference Photos Using Snapshot Wisconsin Images - attended by 9 Participants
- Organized and co-instructed by Jennifer Summers and Taylor Peltier, WDNR Snapshot Wisconsin Operations Coordinator

Birding and Forestry Tour

- 2 tours in Schmeeckle Reserve. 30 registered, 11 attended
- Hosted and co-organized with the Wisconsin Forestry Center



WCW Primaries - Scott Hygnstrom, Ph.D.



Scott Hygnstrom will retire in January 2024 after serving as the Director of the WCW and the Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife. His primary focus was Extension: creating opportunities that align with the WCW's mission and goals for students, professionals, and the public. Hygnstrom was also a professor at UW-Stevens Point, where he taught several courses and advised undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Wildlife Ecology. His research, teaching, and extension efforts primarily centered around managing wildlife-human conflicts and white-tailed deer.

Accomplishments (see appendices)

2022

- 5 Publications (including 2 in press)
- 3 Student presentations advised
- 7 Public presentations
- 1 Grant continued
- 1 Award

2023

- 7 Presentations
- 2 Student presentations advised

Professional Service

Professional Organization Working Group Involvement

- The Wildlife Society – Working Groups:
 - Wildlife Damage Management
 - Wildlife Diseases
 - Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation
 - Conservation Communication
 - Native People

Committee Involvement

- WDNR Elk Advisory Committee
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Project Advisory Committee
- City of Stevens Point Deer Committee
- UW-Stevens Point Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Extension Programs

2022

- **WCW Outdoor Skills and Safety Program** –Hosted 4 First Aid/AED/CPR trainings in cooperation with the American Red Cross (78 students and 2 staff). Hosted workshops on Chainsaw Safety (14 students) and Wilderness First Aid (8 students). Donated \$1,250.
- **Forest Management for Wildlife** – Expanded a collaborative extension program for woodland owners and commercial foresters with Mike Demchik, Haley Frater, and the WDNR. Managed 11 demonstration areas and conducted deer pellet-group count surveys on each. Presented in 3 workshops on Forest Management for Wildlife (50 participants).

2023

- **50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society Celebration.** January 31, 2023. La Crosse, WI. Over 280 WCTWS members from 5 decades were present to reconnect with acquaintances and acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of WCTWS members across the years. Hygnstrom developed a pictorial history (PowerPoint file, 238 slides) and publication [Recognized Members of the WCTWS.pdf \(wildapricot.org\)](https://wildapricot.org). In addition, he developed three articles on the history of the WCTWS in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s for the WCTWS newsletter, Intelligent Tinkering.
- **Extension Wildlife Specialists Triennial Conference** – Wildlife Across America – Hygnstrom served on the Planning Committee and was local coordinator and facilitator for two receptions and a field trip to the International Crane Foundation. Madison, WI. July 17-19, 2023 (27 participants).
- **2023 Conservation Education and Outreach Conference** – Planning Committee, local coordinator, and facilitator for two receptions, a plenary session on A Land Ethic (featuring J. Greendeer, S. Temple, and D. Drake), workshops on Communicating with Landowners and the Public (featuring K. Waterstradt, USFWS and M. Moses, Pheasants Forever) and Communicating with Indigenous Communities (including J. Greendeer, Ho-Chunk Nation; J. Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; and D. Perry, Shoshone Nation), a banquet speaker (featuring S. Craven), a screening of the film Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time (featuring C. Meine) and a field trip to the Shack and Aldo Leopold Center. Madison, WI. July 19-21, 2023 (32 participants).

Distinguished Service Award

Hygnstrom received The Wildlife Society's (TWS) Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (WDMWG) Distinguished Service Award in 2022 for 40 years of leadership and contribution to the group and to the field of wildlife damage management. Hygnstrom served as WDMWG Chair and board representative multiple times and helped the WDMWG become the largest and most impactful working group within TWS.



Scott Hygnstrom (right) is presented the Distinguished Service Award by Past WDMWG Chair Mark Smith

WCW Primaries - Jason Riddle, Ph.D.



Jason Riddle is the Gerald and Helen Stephens Endowed Professor at the WCW. He was awarded the Professorship in 2017, and he uses the funds from this generous endowment to support both undergraduate and graduate research. Riddle's primary research focuses on upland birds such as greater prairie-chickens, ring-necked pheasants, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, and bobwhite quail. Additionally, he directs research and conservation efforts on grassland and woodland habitats.

Accomplishments (see appendices)

2022

- 2 Publications
- 2 Presentations
- 13 Student presentations advised
- 1 Award, nominated for 3
- 3 Grants awarded

2023

- 1 Publication
- 17 Student presentations Advised
- 2 public presentations

Student Projects Advised

Graduate:

- Evaluation of eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris silverstris gallopavo*) productivity and recruitment utilizing Snapshot Wisconsin trail camera images - Hannah Butkiewicz (graduated 2022)

Undergraduate:

- Use of Snapshot Wisconsin images to predict fall turkey harvest demographics. Hayden Walkush, Boone and Crockett Research Fellow. (graduated 2022)

Professional Organizations

- North Central Section of The Wildlife Society (NCSTWS) - Past President, Elected Representative to Council
- Committee involvement within NCSTWS - Diversity Committee member, Group Achievement Award Committee member, Fellows Committee member, Policy Priorities Committee member

2022/2023 Bird Banding Efforts at Treehaven

Jason Riddle hired three undergraduate students – Hayden Walkush, Emlynn Mock, and Stacey Petrus in 2022 to help with bird surveys at UW-Stevens Point's Treehaven site. These students spearheaded a pilot year of bird-banding efforts at Treehaven. The project continued in 2023 when Riddle hired Dana Lotz to assist as a bird banding technician. Dana worked with two undergraduate assistants, Josiah Gritter and Liz Schmutzer. Long-term objectives include:

- Exposing students attending Summer Field Experience at Treehaven to bird handling and trapping techniques
- Increasing public education opportunities with songbirds at Treehaven
- Developing a robust and long-term dataset of bird demographics at Treehaven for scientific and management purposes

In 2022, the team captured 34 individual birds of 13 species. Most commonly captured species were the red-eyed vireo and least flycatcher. Least commonly encountered species were the American goldfinch, American redstart, northern flicker, purple finch and yellow-rumped warbler. Other notable captures included American robins, chestnut-sided warblers, Nashville warblers, gray catbirds, indigo buntings, and ovenbirds.



An ovenbird captured and banded at Treehaven in 2022



A hatch-year chestnut-sided warbler captured and banded by students in 2023

In 2023, students incorporated bird feeders into their capture efforts: they used mist nets with and without bird feeders to compare the methods. They found bird feeders were highly effective at attracting birds to the nets during migration season, but less effective later in the summer when berries and seeds were plentiful on the landscape. They captured 61 total individuals, most of which were purple finches and American goldfinches; however red-eyed vireos and least flycatchers were common, similar to the previous year. Other notable species included the chestnut-sided warbler, black-and-white-warbler, cedar waxwing and eastern wood pewee.

Upon completion of the pilot season, the student team recommended improvements to the study design, including placing additional mist nets in more remote areas of Treehaven, and acquiring mosquito tents, portable worktables, and duplicate banding supplies to expand the effort. In 2023, CNR students at Treehaven expressed truly enjoying the experience of seeing birds up close and having the opportunity to hold and release birds, regardless of their major. This project was funded by Riddle's Douglas R. Stephens Professorship and Treehaven.

WCW Primaries - Ben Sedinger, Ph.D.



Ben Sedinger is the Kennedy-Grohne Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation. He advises graduate and undergraduate research focused on waterfowl and wetlands conservation. He also teaches courses at UW-Stevens Point and has developed a unique waterfowl ecology and management course.

Accomplishments (see appendices)

2022

- 2 Peer-reviewed publications
- 7 Student presentations advised
- 1 Presentation
- 3 Graduate students advised (2 graduated)
- 1 Undergraduate researcher advised
- 1 Grant awarded
- 1 Grant continued (2020 - 2022)

2023

- 6 Peer-reviewed publications
- 5 Student presentations advised
- 3 Graduate students advised

Graduate Research Projects Advised

- Reproductive ecology and environmental change: nest survival, nest-site fidelity - Jordan Thompson (graduated 2022)
- Population ecology and migration chronology of wood ducks that breed in the upper Mississippi Great Lakes region - Andrew Greenawalt (graduated 2022)
- Post-hatch movement ecology of Emperor Geese on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska - Mairin Murphy
- Nesting behavior and nest survival in upland nesting ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region of Saskatchewan, Canada - Hannah Sabatier
- Waterfowl Productivity in Wisconsin - Amanda Griswold

Service

- Learn to Hunt Waterfowl - collaborated with Delta Waterfowl to provide Hunting University Program for students (2022)
- Steering Committee - Waterfowl Hunter Expo 2022

Special Projects- Undergraduate Research



Cackling geese students captured by driving the geese, unable to fly because they've recently molted, into traps

Ben Sedinger advised several undergraduate research projects in addition to his three graduate students. In 2022, Jacob Schiefelbein and Aiden Gehrke assisted with master's degree candidate Mairin Murphy's field work in Alaska while Brilyn Brecka worked with Andrew Greenawalt (Master's, December 2022) on wood duck research. Sedinger co-advised undergrad Jeffrey Edwards on a blue-winged teal project while also overseeing the Student Chapter of TWS's waterfowl projects, the gray-squirrel project, and the flying-squirrel project. In 2023, undergraduates James Doss and Nicole Luoma took over assisting Marin Murphy at Kigigak Island Camp in Alaska and Jacob Tepsa worked under the National Science

Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Program studying geese in Alaska. Under Sedinger's direction and advisement, the Student Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU) initiated a duck banding project.

Starting in 2022, Jacob and Aiden assisted Mairin with her graduate research. Nicole and James continued this work in 2023. As Marin's wildlife technicians, they moved between multiple remote Alaskan islands where they monitored nest success, bow-netted, and conducted mark-resight studies of emperor geese and spectacled eider. They also conducted drives of cackling geese and Pacific black-brant by foot and helicopter. Regardless of which island they were on, they also spent much of their time monitoring the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza across bird and mammal inhabitants.



An example of the camps students stayed in while conducting waterfowl research in Alaska

Brilyn completed a research project on incubation constancy in wood ducks using light-level data from geolocators in 2022. Her presentation on the topic at the 2022 Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society conference earned "Best Undergraduate Presentation" and received "Highest Honors – Oral Presentation" at the CNR Research Symposium at UW-Stevens Point. Brilyn graduated in 2022 and is now a beaver biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Jeffrey Edwards worked with Sedinger and UW-Stevens Point Associate Professor of Wildlife Marie Perkins and Drew Fowler (WNDR) on a project examining blue-winged teal nest site selection and survival in Wisconsin. He

Ben Sedinger, Ph.D. continued



Jacob Tepsa preparing a trail camera for deployment

presented his results at the 2022 WCTWS conference, the 2022 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and the CNR Research Symposium. Jeffrey wrote a proposal for a fellowship, which he was awarded, and is now pursuing a master's at the University of Missouri.

Jacob Tepsa worked with Sedinger, Ph.D. student (and former graduate student of Sedinger) Jordan Thompson, and Dave Koons, Ph.D. on the Tutakoke River Brant Project in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. He, along with project technicians, deployed trail cameras in waterfowl brood-rearing areas to investigate the influence of different species foraging behaviors on food resources and those behaviors' impacts on survival. Jacob will present his findings at the 9th North American Duck Symposium in Portland, OR, in 2024.

In spring of 2023, Sedinger worked with the UW-Stevens Point DU Student Chapter to begin a waterfowl banding project at the Lost Creek Wetlands, north of Stevens Point. Students trapped ducks for 2 weeks and successfully caught and banded blue-winged teal and wood ducks. Multiple students from the DU chapter participated in banding efforts, gaining hands-on experience trapping and working with waterfowl.



Sedinger (second row, right) with DU Student Chapter students at Lost Creek Wetlands in Stevens Point banding ducks

WCW Primaries - Cady Sartini, Ph.D.

Cady Sartini joined the WCW in 2019, though she has served as a full time assistant professor since 2015. She teaches several courses at UW-Stevens Point and is the Primary Investigator for the Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project: a long term project that has been ongoing for over 30 years.



Accomplishments *(see appendices)*

2022

- 26 Undergraduate research students trained
- 2 Graduate students advised, 1 graduated
- 3 Student presentations advised
- 1 Publication

2023

- 28 Undergraduate research students engaged
- 1 Graduate students advised
- 11 Student presentations advised
- 2 Presentations

Graduate Projects Advised

- Influence of hard mast, harvest framework, and other factors on black bear harvest - Nathan Kluge (graduated 2022)
- Agricultural producer perceptions of the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program - Jacob Bergstrand

The Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project Endowment

Building on 46 years of impactful black bear research, the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point received a \$1 million endowment to ensure the continuation of the work and support the development of conservation professionals.

Funding comes from three sources:

- **The Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project Endowment:** The Stephens Family Foundation is a staunch supporter of conservation and the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. These funds will support all operations and needs of the college's black bear research and education.

Cady Sartini, Ph.D. Continued

- **The Searle-Dew-Thomas Boone and Crockett Wisconsin Black Bear Fellowship Endowment:** This endowment will support a research fellowship program, providing undergraduate and graduate student opportunities in cutting-edge black bear research.
- **The Safari Club International Wisconsin Black Bear Research Fellowship Endowment:** Multiple Wisconsin chapters of Safari Club International — including the Badgerland Chapter, Bowhunters Chapter, Illinois/Chicago Chapter and Northeast Wisconsin Chapter – have come together to secure funding in support of UW-Stevens Point’s black bear research and education initiatives. These contributions will significantly enhance the university’s ability to protect and conserve Wisconsin’s black bear population.

Black Bear Ecology and Management Course



Sartini (left) demonstrates how to fit a radio collar using a plush black bear

Cady Sartini has been educating the next generation of black bear biologists with a unique bear-focused class since 2020. “Black Bear Ecology and Management” is a semester long course open primarily to senior level students and to some first or second-year students who will become Teaching Assistants or Project Assistants the following year. Sartini structures the class so that it is student-driven. While there are a few topics that Sartini ensures are covered, the students work together to write their own syllabus for the course, allowing them to choose goals and activities and how they want to be evaluated.

The “Black Bear Ecology and Management” course not only includes traditional classroom

lessons but also includes guest speakers, and most importantly, a weekend-long field techniques workshop. Lessons covered include black bear ecology, life history, how bears are portrayed in the media, and how bears are perceived by the public. Guest lectures include WDNR biologists or Tribal members who discuss bear management at the state level and cultural considerations for bear management. Wildlife rehabilitators are invited to speak about considerations for rehabilitating and releasing injured or orphaned bears.

The weekend field workshop not only trains students on fundamental field techniques necessary for working with bears, but also trains students and volunteers who will participate in the Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project. Students learn how to locate and report black bear dens. They learn what factors to consider when planning to visit a black bear den such as, if the den is on public or private land, if parking is available, what equipment would be needed, and if the den have yearlings or cubs. They learn advanced radio telemetry techniques to track collared bears. Students participate in a mock den-processing event where they learn how to take measurements and fit a radio collar using a yearling-sized plush bear. They learn about different trapping techniques and gain hands-on experience setting the traps. The workshop also covers chemical immobilization considerations.

Cady Sartini, Ph.D. Continued

Students who have completed the course have provided positive feedback. Lead Teaching Assistant and Project Assistant Logan Maier says about the course: "I loved having the opportunity to teach people field operations. The students get to use these techniques in actual field work, it's training that is usually only available on the job. They learn something and get excited for using something in their future jobs. Working with large animals is a very competitive job opportunity, so it's wonderful to see students getting the opportunity to work with bears up close."



Students learn to handle darts and other equipment associated with sedating black bears for research

See our new Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project website for more information about the black bear ecology and management course, and about the research being conducted:

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr/WCW/Pages/BearProject.aspx>

Watch for the WCW's first 2024 Quarterly Report for more information on the Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project!



Students learn how to track collared black bears with radio-telemetry by tracking a hidden collar

WCW Director Send-Off

Reflections on my time as Director of the WCW

By Scott Hygnstrom, Director, WCW (Retiring January '24)

It is with a sense of both nostalgia and anticipation that I write to you today, marking a significant milestone in my career. After 45 years dedicated to wildlife conservation, I have chosen to embark on the next chapter of my life through retirement. As I reflect on the journey we've shared at the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife (WCW), I am filled with gratitude for the achievements we've accomplished together and the path we've paved for the future.

The inception of WCW in 2014 was a testament to collaborative efforts and a shared vision among the UW-Stevens Point Wildlife faculty, Dean Christine Thomas, and the generous donation from Gerald and Helen Stephens in memory of their son Douglas. Together, we set forth goals and objectives that guided our endeavors, focusing on key areas such as waterfowl and wetlands, upland birds, black bears, youth education, and wildlife damage management.

To address the need for public literacy, we established the CNR Spring Seminar Series, providing a platform for discussions on critical topics ranging from wolves to climate change. Jennifer Summers played a pivotal role in coordinating these seminars, which have reached over 10,000 individuals, serving as a beacon of public engagement for the CNR. Additionally, our multimedia display in the TNR Building has ensured ongoing awareness of current activities within our community and beyond.

Networking and engagement were prioritized through our support for student participation in state, regional, and national wildlife meetings. By facilitating travel awards and hosting receptions, we fostered connections and opportunities for over 500 alumni and friends, contributing to a robust network of wildlife professionals.

Our commitment to knowledge and skills development was evident through various training initiatives, including the Student Leadership Development Series, Outdoor Skills and Safety Program, and Forest Management for Wildlife Program. These efforts empowered students and professionals alike, instilling valuable hands-on experience and expertise.

Conservation of wildlife and their habitats remained a core focus, with faculty involving numerous students in research and management projects. Through these endeavors, we generated insights that have informed wildlife conservation efforts both locally and globally.

Addressing human-wildlife conflicts, I conducted workshops, maintained online resources, and co-hosted conferences to support wildlife management professionals and enhance public awareness.



Scott Hygnstrom was recognized as a Fellow of The Wildlife Society in 2021

As I transition into retirement, I am proud of the legacy we've built together at WCW. I am confident that under the leadership of Shelli Dubay and the dedication of our team, WCW will continue to thrive, reaching new heights and making a lasting impact in the field of wildlife conservation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to students, colleagues, family, and friends for their unwavering support throughout this journey. As we bid farewell to one chapter, I encourage you all to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and cherish the experiences that have shaped us.

With warm regards and best wishes for the future,



Scott Hygnstrom
Director, WCW (Retiring, January 2024)



UW-Stevens Point Wildlife faculty having a good time at one of their infamous Friday faculty meetings, including from left to right, Jason Riddle, Shelli Dubay, Chris Yahnke, Cady Sartini, Ben Sedinger, Scott Hygnstrom, and Marie Perkins

Appendix I

WCW Primaries: Publications

Scott Hygnstrom

2022

- Egan, M.E., K.E. Pepin, J.W. Fischer, **S.E. Hygnstrom**, K.C. VerCauteren, and G. Bastille-Rousseau. 2022. Social network analysis of white-tailed deer scraping behavior: implications for chronic wasting disease. Ecosphere DOI:10.1002/esc2.4434.
- Kluge, N., C. Sartini, B. Sedinger, B. Barringer, and **S. Hygnstrom**. A comparison of visual survey methods to estimate acorn production: a means of standardizing results. Journal of Forest Ecology. DOI:10.1016/j.foreco.2022.120418.
- Summers, J.L., H.M. Kaarakka, J.P. White, **S. Hygnstrom**, B.S. Sedinger, J. Riddle, T. Van Deelen, C. Yahnke. 2022. Influence of underground mining with explosives on a hibernating bat population. Conservation Science and Practice. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12849>
- Summers, J., M. Taylor, and **S. Hygnstrom**. The influence of roost exclusion on movement and roosting behavior of big brown bats. Proceedings of the 19th Wildlife Damage Management Conference. (in press)
- Summers, J., M. Taylor, and **S. Hygnstrom**. Bat-friendly communities, rise up and be recognized! Proceedings of the 19th Wildlife Damage Management Conference. (in press)

Jason Riddle

2022

- Hargett, E.M., A. Lang, **J. Riddle**, and R.P. Thiel. 2022 Over-winter trends in resident downy, hairy, red-bellied woodpeckers and white-breasted nuthatches in a central Wisconsin forest. North American Bird Bander 3:116-124.
- Summers, J.L., H.M. Kaarakka, J.P. White, S. Hygnstrom, B.S. Sedinger, **J. Riddle**, T. Van Deelen, C. Yahnke. 2022. Influence of underground mining with explosives on a hibernating bat population. Conservation Science and Practice. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12849>
- Walkush, H., E. Mock, S. Petrus, and **J. Riddle**. 2022 Bird banding efforts at Treehaven.



A saw-whet owl captured and banded by students of the Student Chapter of TWS saw-whet owl project, which is advised by Riddle

2023

- Houtman, M., S. Dubay, **J. Riddle**, M. Gibson, and A. Gossett. Increased incidence of neurological abnormalities in passerines and near passerines through seven years of avian rehabilitation in Wisconsin. Passenger Pigeon.

Ben Sedinger

2022

- Kluge, N., C. Sartini, **B.S. Sedinger**, B. Barringer, S. Hygnstrom. 2022. A comparison of visual survey methods to estimate acorn production: A means of standardizing results. *Forest Ecology and Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2022.120418>
- Koons, D.N., T.V. Riecke, S.G. Boomer, **B.S. Sedinger**, J.S. Sedinger, P.J. Williams, and T.W. Arnold. 2022. Lessons to be learned from ecological persistence and forecasting for adaptive management ecology and evolution. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.8541>
- Riecke, T.V., M.G. Lohman, **B.S. Sedinger**, T.W. Arnold, C.L. Feldheim, D.N. Koons, F.C. Rohwer, M. Schaub, P.J. Williams, J.S. Sedinger. 2022. Density-dependence produces spurious relationships among demographic parameters in a harvested species. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13807>
- Riecke, T.V., M.G. Lohman, B.S. Sedinger, T.W. Arnold, C. Feldheim, D.N. Koons, F. Rohwer, M. Schaub, P.J. Williams, J.S. Sedinger. 2022. A hierarchical model for jointly assessing ecological and anthropogenic impacts on animal demography. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13747>
- Summers, J.L., H.M. Kaarakka, J.P. White, S. Hygnstrom, **B.S. Sedinger**, J. Riddle, T. Van Deelen, C. Yahnke. 2022. Influence of underground mining with explosives on a hibernating bat population. *Conservation Science and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12849>
- Thompson, J.M., T.V. Riecke, B.L. Daniels, K.A. Spragens, M. Gabrielson, C.A. Nicolai, **B.S. Sedinger**. 2022. Survival and cause-specific mortality in American green-winged teal banded on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22223>



Jacob Tepsa (middle), undergraduate researcher advised by Sedinger, with project collaborators and waterfowl they captured in Alaska, 2023

2023

- Lavretsky, P. and **B.S. Sedinger**. 2023. Migratory patterns of eastern North American mallards as revealed from a half-century of band-Recovery data. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22421>

Cady Sartini

- Kluge, N., **C. Sartini**, B. Sedinger, B. Barringer, and S. Hygnstrom. 2022. A comparison of visual survey methods to estimate acorn production: a means of standardizing results. *Forest Ecology and Management* 520:120418

Appendix II

WCW Primaries: Presentations

* Denotes presentations advised

Scott Hygnstrom

2022

- **Hygnstrom, S.** The successful Cooperative Extension system. The Wildlife Society Conservation Education and Outreach Working Group Webinar. February 2022 (invited)
- Edwards, J., C. Harwood, A. DeValk, T. Pike, H. Stasik, S. Stellmacher, C. Sartini, and **S. Hygnstrom.** Behavior of urban white-tailed deer in relation to trail proximity in Schmeeckle Reserve, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.* CNR Undergraduate Research Symposium. April 2022
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Successful strategies for conservation education, extension, and outreach. The Wildlife Society Conservation Education and Outreach Working Group Webinar. June 2022 Invited Presentation.
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Shotgun clinic. Pheasants Forever State Convention. Sun Prairie, WI. June 2022 Invited Presentation.
- **Hygnstrom, S.** The changing faces of state wildlife agencies in the 21st century. Engaging diverse audiences and broadening relevancy in our profession. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Management Program Statewide Meeting. Appleton, WI. August 2022. Invited Presentation
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Firearm safety, clay target shooting, and pheasant hunting. Becoming an Outdoors Woman- Introduction to Pheasant Hunting Program. Montello, Wisconsin. October 2022. Invited Presentation.
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Managing deer and their habitat in differing spatial scales. Forest Management for White-tailed Deer Workshop. Almond, Wisconsin. November 2022 (with M. Demchik, J. Pritzl, E. Canania, L. Kardash, and H. Frater)
- Summers, J., H. Kaarakka, J.P. White, C. Yahnke, B. Sedinger, J. Riddle, **S. Hygnstrom**, and T. Van Deelen. Influence of underground mining with explosives on a hibernating bat population.* The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. Spokane, WA. November 2022
- **Hygnstrom, S.** The Wisconsin Center for Wildlife. 2022 Extension All-colleague Conference Natural Resources Institute Meeting. Madison, Wisconsin. December 2022. Invited Presentation

2023

- C. Harwood, A. Devalk, T. Pike, H. Stasik, S. Stellmacher, R. Lisowski, L. Dobberstein, B. Muesler, **S. Hygnstrom**, and M. Demchik. Densities of white-tailed deer on managed forests in North Central Wisconsin.* Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. La Crosse, WI. January/February 2023; 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023; and UW-Stevens Point-CNR Jim and Katie Krause Student Research Symposium. Stevens Point, WI. April, 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.**, K. VerCauteren, D. Drake, T. Van Deelen, and S. Vantassel. Regulated commercial harvest: revisiting a strategy to aid in the management of overabundant deer. 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023

Scott Hygnstrom continued

- **Hygnstrom, S.** Motivations and demographics of American hunters, introduction to firearms, shotgun shooting, fur processing and equipment, hunter skills, and Pheasant hunting. Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow Workshop. Dundee, IL. March 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Firearm safety and shotgun shooting and wild turkey hunting. Becoming an Outdoors Woman: Learn-to-Hunt Turkey. Stevens Point, WI. April 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Late-career specialists panel. Extension Wildlife Specialists Triennial Conference – Wildlife Across America. Madison, WI. July 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Safety, Hunting skills, communication, shooting, carcass handling, environmental awareness, Case studies, and Additional training. Workshop on Shooting Deer in Urban-suburban environments. Stevens Point, WI. September 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.** Collaborative nature of cross-boundary projects and managing deer and their habitat on differing spatial scales. Workshop on Forest Management for White-tailed Deer. Maiden Rock, WI. October 2023
- **Hygnstrom, S.,** D. Drake, and J. Nack. Innovations in wildlife programming. 2023 Extension All-colleague Conference. Madison, WI. December 2023

Jason Riddle

2022

- Houtman, M., S. Dubay, **J. Riddle**, M. Gibson, A. Gossett, and J. Sandberg. Increased neurological abnormalities in passerines and near passerines through seven years of avian rehabilitation in Wisconsin.* National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association National Symposium. Madison, WI. February 2022
- Luoma, N., A. Gehrke, C. Freymiller, S. Reid, C. Suckow, and **J. Riddle**. Influence of temperature on northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) recorded at Sandhill Wildlife Area.* 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022
- **Riddle, J.** Effective student chapters. The Importance of Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society in the Professional Development of Students Workshop. 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022 Invited Presentation.
- Roberts, B., C. Johnson, A. Weisbeck, and Z. Cason. Preliminary study into how adjacent cover type compares to home range composition of ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) in northern Wisconsin.* 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022
- Truckenbrod, S., H. Butkiewicz, **J. Riddle**, J. Stenglein, and C. Pollentier. 2022 Comparison between Snapshot Wisconsin trail camera and spring harvest eastern wild turkey data in Wisconsin.* 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022



Students of the Student Chapter of TWS saw-whet owl project, which is advised by Jason Riddle, with a saw-whet owl they captured

Jason Riddle continued

- Walkush, H., H. Butkiewicz, S. Truckenbrod, **J. Riddle**, J. Stenglein, and C. Pollentier. Using Snapshot Wisconsin trail cameras to predict fall harvest demographics of eastern wild turkeys. 29th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society.* Spokane, WA. November 2022 (Also presented at Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point, April 2022 and 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, Iowa, February 2022)
- Butkiewicz, H., S. Truckenbrod, **J. Riddle**, J. Stenglein, C. Pollentier, and E. Bugee-Donovan. Determining wild turkey poult-to-hen ratios and average brood size in Wisconsin using Snapshot Wisconsin trail camera images.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Virtual. March 2022. **Best Graduate Wildlife Presentation Award.**
- Freymiller, C., A. Gehrke, and N. Luoma. 2022 The influence of lunar phases on autumn capture probabilities of northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) recorded at Sandhill Wildlife Area.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2022. **Highest Honors.**
- Knaack, E., T. Priefer, J. Tucker, and G. Koch. Preliminary study of hairy and downy woodpecker plumage variations.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2022
- Murray, J. Whitetail deer habitat selection and predator encounters.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2022
- Roberts, B., C. Johnson, A. Weisbeck, and Z. Cason. Occupancy modeling and detection probability of ruffed grouse auditory surveys in northern Wisconsin.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2022. **Highest Honors.**
- Roberts, B., C. Johnson, A. Weisbeck, and Z. Cason. Preliminary study of ruffed grouse survival in northern Wisconsin.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Virtual March 2022. Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2022. **Honorable Mention**
- Johnson, C.K., A.M. Weisbeck, E.C. Eldeen, A.J. Wallin, Z.D. Cason, and **J.D. Riddle**. Sound mapping characteristics of ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) drumming log locations in northern Wisconsin.* 29th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Spokane, WA. November 2022
- Harms, T, L. Whipple, A. Dudley, **J. Riddle**, G. Potts, and A. Carrozzino-Lyon. North central section student welcome webinar.* Virtual. October 2022
- **Riddle, J.**, N. Kluge, S. Finnerty, E. Clymire, D. Lueck, S. Demchik, J. Studinski, M. Greider, J. Prater, and K. Foley. Experimenting with critical thinking. Critical thinking event series. UW-Stevens Point. May 2022



Graduate and undergraduate researchers and Riddle pose with their study subject, a wild turkey.

Jason Riddle continued



A black and white warbler captured by Riddle's undergraduate bird-banding research team at Treehaven in 2023

2023

- Cason, Z.D., C.K. Johnson, A.M. Weisbeck, E.C. Eldeen, A.J. Wallin, and **J.D. Riddle**. Sound mapping characteristics of ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) drumming log locations in Northern Wisconsin.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. La Crosse, WI. January/February 2023
- Cross-Weisbeck, A.M., Z.D. Cason, C.K. Johnson, E.C. Eldeen, A.J. Wallin, and **J.D. Riddle**. Environmental effects on ruffed grouse survival in northern Wisconsin.* 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023
- Eldeen, E., A. Wallin, A. Cross-Weisbeck, Z. Cason, C. Johnson, and C. Pollentier.

Analysis of ruffed grouse population trends using auditory surveys within northern Wisconsin.* 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023

- Luoma, N. The influence of ambient illumination levels on autumn capture probabilities of northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) recorded at Sandhill Wildlife Area.* 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023
- Walkush, H., H. Butkiewicz, S. Truckenbrod, **J. Riddle**, J. Stenglein, and C. Pollentier. Using Snapshot Wisconsin trail cameras to anticipate the fall harvest demographics of adult eastern wild turkeys.* Invited talk to the Boone and Crockett Club at the 87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in St. Louis, MO. March 2023
- Cross-Weisbeck, A., C. Johnson, and Z. Cason. Modeling sound propagation of ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) from drumming logs in northern Wisconsin.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Cross-Weisbeck, A., S. Lindenberger, A. Wallin, Z. Cason, C. Johnson, J. Doss, and E. Eldeen. Analysis of the impact of stem density on ruffed grouse drumming direction in northern Wisconsin.* **Highest Honors**. Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Koch, G., A. Whitis, J. Tucker, and B. Mayer. Elevation use in woodpeckers and nuthatches.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Lisowski, R. Relation between body temperature and response to surveyor disturbance in *Sistrurus c. catenatus*.* **Highest Honors**. Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Luoma, N., D. Lotz, S. Hauser, and S. Reid. Differential timing of migrating northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) based on age categories.* **Honorable Mention**. Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Michlig, G., J. Nasiatka, N. Larson, and G. Eklund. Sex abundance of rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in Mill Creek, WI at different times of day.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- Murray, J. Whitetail deer habitat selection and predator encounters.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023

Jason Riddle continued

- Murray, J. Correlation of fawn and predator observations.* Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. UW-Stevens Point. April 2023
- **Riddle, J.** Introduction to neotropical birds. Forest management for neotropical migrant birds. Treehaven, Tomahawk, WI. May 2023
- Luoma, N., D. Lotz, S. Hauser, C. Freymiller, **J. Riddle**, and D. Thiel. Differential timing of migrating northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) based on age and sex categories.* World Owl Conference. La Crosse, WI. October 2023
- Cross-Weisbeck, A., E. Eldeen, Z. Cason, and **J. Riddle**. Modeling sound characteristics and propagation of ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) drumming.* 30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Louisville, KY. November 2023
- Eldeen, E., A. Cross-Weisbeck, and **J. Riddle**. Preliminary study of roost site selection by male ruffed grouse.* 30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Louisville, KY. November 2023
- Hauser, S. D. Lotz, S. Reid, J. Gritter, N. Luoma, **J. Riddle**, and D. Thiel. Preliminary results for quantifying ectoparasite diversity and prevalence in northern saw-whet owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) in central Wisconsin.* 30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. Louisville, KY. November 2023
- **Riddle, J.** Persistence of memory: let's agree and disagree. Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Wausau, WI. September 2023. Invited Presentation.



Nicole Luoma, Dana Lotz, and Sophie Hauser, undergraduate students studying saw-whet owls with Riddle, attend the World Owl Conference in 2023

Ben Sedinger

2022

- Greenawalt, A., T. Riecke, D. Fowler, **B.S. Sedinger**. Mortality dynamics of wood ducks that breed in the upper Mississippi River great lakes region.* Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference, Des Moines, IA, February 2022
- **Sedinger, B.S.** Waterfowl teaching and research at UW-Stevens Point. Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Virtual. February 2022.
- Brecka, B., A. Greenawalt, **B.S. Sedinger**. Using light-level geolocators to determine nest attentiveness of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) breeding in central Wisconsin.* Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Virtual. March 2022.
- Greenawalt, A., T. Riecke, D. Fowler, **B.S. Sedinger**. Mortality dynamics of wood ducks that breed in the upper Mississippi River great lakes region.* Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Virtual. March 2022, and the 29th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Spokane, WA, November 2022.
- Murphy, M.A. B. Daniels, T. Lewis, **B.S. Sedinger**. Monitoring post hatch movements of emperor geese using internal and external transmitters and GPS backpacks.* North American Arctic Goose Conference, Corpus Christi, TX, December 2022.

Ben Sedinger continued

- Thompson, J.M., B. Uher-Koch, B. Daniels, **B.S. Sedinger**. Factors influencing nest survival of emperor geese on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska.* North American Arctic Goose Conference, Corpus Christi, TX, December 2022.

2023

- Griswold, A.E., A. Shipley, **B.S. Sedinger**. Assessing waterfowl productivity across priority breeding habitats in Wisconsin using UAV survey methods.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. La Crosse, WI. January/February 2023.
- Smith, A., M. Perkins, S. Finnerty, **B.S. Sedinger**. Mercury exposure in migrating and breeding wood ducks in central Wisconsin.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. La Crosse, WI. January/February 2023.
- Murphy, M.A., B. Daniels, T. Lewis, **B.S. Sedinger**. Examining natal dispersal of emperor geese (*Anser canagicus*) using internal and external transmitters.* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society. La Crosse, WI. January/February 2023.
- Murphy, M.A., B. Daniels, T. Lewis, **B.S. Sedinger**. Waddling wonders: unraveling Emperor Goose gosling movements on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.* The Wildlife Society National Conference, Louisville, KY, November 2023 and Alaska Bird Conference, Anchorage, AK, December 2023

Cady Sartini

2022

- Kluge, N. The influence of acorn abundance on black bear harvest under various state frameworks.* 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022
- Walkush, H., A. Smith, S. Andres, A. Reynolds, C. Giesen, W. Watry, and **C. Sartini**. Post-release movement and behavior of rehabilitated orphan female black bears in northern Wisconsin.* 82nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, Iowa. February 2022.
- Bergstrand, J., L. Maier, and W. Watry. The Ecological role of bears. Neuqua Valley Environmental Science High School, Tomahawk, Wisconsin.* October 2022. Invited presentation.

2023

- Bergstrand, J. and **C. Sartini**. Black bear ecology.* Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula of Michigan Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. January 2023. Invited presentation
- Baier, K. H. Stasik, and J. Kerkoff. Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) den site selection and reuse, northern Wisconsin, 1989-2015* Annual Meeting of The Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Lacrosse, WI. January/February 2023.



A black bear sow and her three cubs in a den during a den visit

Cady Sartini continued



A student holds a black bear cub during a visit to a black bear den

- Bergstrand, J. Agricultural producer perceptions of the Wisconsin WDACP.* 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, Kansas. February 2023.
- Smith, A., A. Mueller, C. Giesen, A. Reynolds, W. Watry, and **C. Sartini**. Post-release movement of rehabbed orphan female black bears in northern Wisconsin.* Poster presentation. 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Overland Park, KS. February 2023.
- Bergstrand, J., C. Giesen, A. Mueller, and A. Reynolds. Black bear ecology: long term perspectives of the Wisconsin Black Bear Project.* Treehaven Dinner and Speaker Seminar Series, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. March 2023. Invited presentation.
- Bergstrand, J. and **C. Sartini**. Producer perceptions of black bear damage to corn and state-sponsored damage abatement programs in Wisconsin.* 25th Eastern Black Bear Workshop, Trego, Wisconsin. April 2023.
- Smith, A., A. Mueller, C. Giesen, A. Reynolds, W. Watry, and **C. Sartini**. Home range and habitat selection of rehabilitated and released female black bears in northern Wisconsin.* National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. April 2023.
- **Sartini, C. E.** Lessons learned from over 45 years of black bear research in Northern Wisconsin: Where we've been and where we're going. Oral presentation at the Annual National Wildlife Society Conference, Louisville, KY. November 2023.
- Giesen, C., A. Mueller, A. Reynolds, W. Watry, and **C. Sartini**. Analysis of black bear movement and activity patterns in northern Wisconsin.* Poster presentation at the Annual National Wildlife Society Conference, Louisville, KY. November 2023.

Appendix III

WCW Primaries: Grants and Awards

Awards

Hygnstrom

- Distinguished Service Award - The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Damage Management Working Group. 2022.

Riddle

- Outstanding Teacher in The College of Natural Resources. Student Selection. CNR. 2022
- Nominee for Advisor of the Year Award. The Wildlife Society. 2022
- Nominee for University Leadership Mentor Award. UW-Stevens Point. 2022.
- Nominee for UW-Stevens Point Scholarship Award. UW-Stevens Point. 2022.

Grants

Hygnstrom and Riddle

- Developing a Network of Bird Habitat Focused Forest Management Demonstration Areas in Wisconsin (USDA). \$361,443.29. (2022 - 2025) Co-PI with Mike Demchik, **J. Riddle**, and **S. Hygnstrom**

Riddle

- National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). 2022 \$18,406. - **J. Riddle**
- National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). 2023. \$17,744 - **J. Riddle**

Sedinger

- "What does it mean? Using waterfowl productivity metrics to assess priority watersheds in the Wisconsin Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Strategy." WDNR - \$229,370 - **B. Sedinger**
- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge (2020-2022) - \$30,000. - **B. Sedinger**

Support WCW

Thank you for reading the 2022/2023 WCW Activity Report. If you enjoyed what you see here and would like more information, be sure to check out our website at www.UW-Stevens Point.edu/WCW

We welcome opportunities to collaborate and develop educational wildlife materials and events.

We also welcome your questions about wildlife!

The activities of the WCW largely are funded by generous endowments. To support the work of the Center, consider contributing financially to the UW-Stevens Point Foundation. Your contributions help us in day-to-day operations or you can specify a program, project, scholarship, travel fund, or other need. Thank you for your generous support.

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