



THE
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY



ALASKA CHAPTER

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

April 7-10, 2026

The Nave

Anchorage, AK

Online Registration Open

Please join us for our **55th** Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting.

The theme for 2026 is:

“Voices of the Wild: Amplifying Science Through Communication Part II”

The Meeting Planning Working Group has kicked into gear to put together our meeting for 2026. Here are the latest updates:

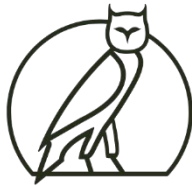
- **Abstract submission** open and the deadline will be **Friday, February 13**.
- **Chapter Award nominations** will be accepted through **COB Friday, February 27**.
- Join our **Special Session on Tools in Technology**
- **Workshops:** Bayesian modeling workshop and Necropsy workshop are in planning.
- **Students!** Apply for travel funding!
- **Field trip** to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (plus potentially more).
- Please send items for our **business meeting** to twsalaska@gmail.com.
- **Virtual attendance** will be hosted on Zoom for plenary speakers and presentations.
- **TWS Swag Swap Table Continues!** Bring your old TWS conference coffee mugs, shirts, binders, etc. and send them home with your colleagues instead of to the landfill.
- If you would like to join the Meeting Planning folks, please contact us. We'd love to have you!

Find us at <https://www.aktws.org/> to register for the meeting, submit your abstract, and apply for travel funding

Contact us at twsalaska@gmail.com if you have any questions or need special accommodations.

Stay tuned for more!

Your TWS AK Chapter Conference Organizing Team



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Workshops

Bayesian Modeling: Fundamentals to Hierarchical Models

Tuesday, April 7th, 8:30am – 5pm, USGS Alaska Science Center Instructor – Joe Eisaguirre (USGS)

This full-day workshop will introduce participants to Bayesian philosophy and modeling approaches, covering introductory topics in the morning session followed by more advanced applications in the afternoon. Participants have the option to attend the morning only; however, afternoon attendees must attend the morning session. Selected topics include*:

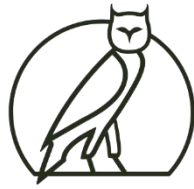
- Bayes theorem and comparison to frequentist statistics
- Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
- Priors and how to choose them
- Bayesian regression analyses
- Hierarchical models and data integration

* The material in this workshop will be geared toward graduate students and other researchers that have experience or have had coursework in applied statistics or biometrics, including using R for (generalized) linear modeling or other frequentist approaches, but are interested in learning what Bayesian statistics is all about. If you're unsure whether you have the necessary baseline knowledge for this course, please reach out to the instructor before signing up.

Field Necropsy Workshop

Tuesday, April 7th, Time and Venue TBD

This workshop will cover the the fundamentals of a field necropsy. Because it is not always practical to send an entire animal back to the lab for a full necropsy, this workshop will go over the important details to capture while doing a necropsy out in the wild.



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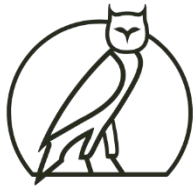
Anchorage, AK

Tools in Technology Special Session

In a world of increasing use of Artificial Intelligence, this special session encourages the presentation and discussion of the pros and cons of using Artificial Intelligence in Wildlife.

We encourage anyone who has used Artificial Intelligence and other technological tools to submit an abstract. Presentations can focus on your use of these tools or they can focus on the conclusions of your work while using them.

For this special session, you have the option to give a full length presentation or a short spark talk. You can choose between the two options in the abstract submission form.



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2026 CHAPTER AWARDS

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Awards Committee strives to recognize outstanding contributions to wildlife research, conservation, and service. Our annual awards celebrate the dedication of students, professionals, and the occasional fieldwork mishap with a humorous twist. Below are the award categories, criteria, and nomination details.

Categories

- **Student Wildlife Conservation Award**
 - Individual or team achievement in research or management.
 - Distinguished service to the Alaska Chapter or UAF Student Chapter.
- **Wildlife Conservation Award**
 - Outstanding professional achievement during the preceding five years by individual or team in research or management.
 - Lifetime achievement for excellence in professional accomplishments over at least 20 years (may be received only once).
 - Distinguished service to Alaska Chapter.
 - Distinguished service to students or young professionals.
- **Humorous award***
 - Good-natured roasting for an embarrassing event presented at the banquet as a capstone event following the invited speaker; recipient name and year are added to an object to be re-awarded each year.

** We are taking suggestions for 1) what to name this award, and 2) a suitable object to serve as the trophy (e.g., Colorado Chapter has a "blown blunderbuss" award)*

Nominations

- The nomination must be from current Alaska Chapter member(s) and be sent to the committee chair.
- The nominee need not be a current or former Alaska Chapter member.
- The nomination should include:
 - The name of person submitting and date.
 - The name of the nominee with current and past conservation-related employment, and professional affiliations (as best known).
 - A brief description (<200 words) of achievements related to the award category.
 - One letter of recommendation (1 page, 1 side) from another colleague or collaborator (who does not have to be a Chapter member) that includes the name of the person making the recommendation and the date.

If you know a deserving colleague, consider submitting a nomination for one or more of the award categories. Please send nominations to twسالaska@gmail.com with the subject line "Chapter Award Nomination 2026" by **Friday, February 27th**.