



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

# Are We Ready to Move Forward?

In this issue, I feature an invited paper by Michael Morrison titled "The Habitat Sampling and Analysis Paradigm has Limited Value in Animal Conservation: a Prequel." As many of you know, Dr. Morrison was a former Editor-in-Chief for *Journal of Wildlife Management* and established himself as one of the leaders in the field of wildlife-habitat ecology. Here, he takes an introspective look at the many wildlife-habitat relations studies he/we have done in the past and questions how much progress we gained by them. Indeed, science is a process whereby we evolve our approaches and foci. That evolution cannot move forward without critically evaluating the past and proposing where to go in the future. Publishing this article does not imply that I wholeheartedly agree with his thesis. I promote, however, the need for our science to move forward and Dr. Morrison provides food for thought.

Wind energy developments are proliferating across the globe. Whereas wind energy offers an alternative to relying on fossil fuels, it carries some risk to migratory species of wildlife. Numerous studies have been conducted and many are underway to evaluate effects of these developments on various species. These studies have been very effective at highlighting and quantifying specific issues and proposing measures to reduce and/or mitigate deleterious effects. These efforts, however, lack cohesion and coordination. Thus, in a similar theme to that offered by Dr. Morrison, Martin Piorkowski and his colleagues provide 4 areas where a coordinated science program is needed to evaluate the effects of wind-energy development on migrating animals. These ideas were developed during a workshop in Racine, Wisconsin where 30 scientists representing industry, government, non-governmental organizations, and universities came to consensus on a small set of key research priorities. Again, another case-in-point of moving our science forward.

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

We have a rich diversity of papers in this issue representing numerous taxa and topics. These include a couple human dimensions papers addressing deer hunting; population studies of fisher, martin, ruffed grouse, and wild turkey; habitat

studies of bear, woodcock, and bobcat; and a wide variety of conservation and management papers.

We have also resurrected the practice of acknowledging manuscript reviewers by listing those who reviewed manuscripts in 2011. Peer review is critical to the stature, impact, and relevance of the papers published in *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Reviewing a manuscript is not a trivial task. It requires your time and critical thinking. Each and every paper published in the *Journal* is improved by peer review. Thank you!

## SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

Many of the papers published in this issue are those that were submitted while Frank Thompson was the Editor-in-Chief. The review process was initiated with Frank, but I saw many of them through final review, editing, and production. Authors are potentially caught in an awkward situation because with a change in editor comes a change in ideas of what to publish. I would like to think that the transition has been fairly smooth, with only a few minor bumps. I credit Frank for this as he left me in an easy position to follow.

We are still receiving manuscripts with an emphasis on tools and techniques. Many of these are excellent manuscripts, but clearly more suitable for *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. Unfortunately, we have no clean way to simply move them from the *Journal* to the *Bulletin*. We are working with the publisher, but alas no solution is forthcoming. Consequently, I reject the manuscript and suggest that the author(s) resubmit to the *Bulletin*. I would rather not reject these manuscripts out-of-hand simply because they focus on techniques. If you are uncertain about where to submit your manuscript, send me an email with the abstract or entire manuscript beforehand and I will advise you accordingly.

Finally, I don't think I give enough credit to those who do all of the heavy lifting, specifically Anna Knipps and Allison Cox who comprise the JWM editorial staff, all of the Associate Editors, and the Book Review Editor. I very much appreciate and value their contributions and trust that you do too.

—Bill Block  
*Editor-in-Chief*