

Tarleton State Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society

September 2025

Fall into Wildlife: September Recap

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The Tarleton State Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society is off to a strong start this fall semester with meetings, service projects, and hands-on field experiences. From welcoming new members at our first general meeting to giving back to the community and gaining career-building skills in the field, our chapter continues to stay busy. We have members at Kerr Wildlife Management Area collecting vegetation data for Ian Mack, a PhD student working with wild turkeys. On Friday mornings we go on bird walks at the Tarleton State Ag Center and have witnessed the fall migrants beginning to appear.

In early October, four members will attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. They will present undergraduate research and accept our award for Student Chapter of The Year. We also have several members attending the Texas Section of the Society of Rangeland Management to present research posters and compete in the Plant Identification contest. In November, 18 members will travel to East Foundation to participate in their annual deer capture and assist with a comprehensive study on white-tailed deer alongside students from other universities.

First General Meeting

On September 2nd, the Tarleton State Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society had their first meeting of the semester. This meeting gave past and new members the opportunity to meet each other and the new 2025-2026 officer team. Additionally, new members had an opportunity to learn about our parent society, The Wildlife Society and The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The Wildlife Society, with over 10,000 members, is the international society for wildlife and natural resource professionals, including many private landowners, industry, agency, and nature enthusiasts (www.wildlife.org).

We introduced members to and encouraged their participation with our competition teams: Wildlife Quizbowl and Plant ID. We also introduced our newest committee, Mentorship. We encouraged students to follow us on social media to find out more about upcoming events such as Nature Fest with our local Texas Master Naturalist Chapter on October 11th at the Bosque Trail from 10-2 p.m., BioBlitz, bird watching, and research opportunities.

Adopt-A-Highway

On September 9th, members participated in one of the Society's first trash pickup days of the semester. The Society "adopted" a one-mile stretch of highway on County Road 182 several years ago and does trash pickup events twice a semester as a way to give back to the community and to help the ecosystem in and around Stephenville. Our next trash pickup event will be in November.

Cook Canyon Ranch Spotlight Surveys

On September 15-17 and 22-24, members had the opportunity to assist the Cook Canyon Ranch biologists with their yearly spotlight surveys. A spotlight survey is a method of counting wildlife at night using powerful spotlights. From a slowly moving vehicle, participants use a spotlight to scan for eye shine from animals and then provide that information to another person who is responsible for recording the data. The surveys allowed members to receive hands-on experience in population surveys for white-tailed deer. In addition to white-tailed deer, other species such as foxes, raccoons, and coyotes are observed. These spotlight surveys are a vital wildlife management technique and provide our members with early career-building opportunities.

The Society's Next Meeting (9/30)

The next meeting for the Society is September 30th at 6:00 PM in Grant 116. Dr. Luke Linhoff, Assistant Professor in the Tarleton State Wildlife and Natural Resources Department, will discuss his work with Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Additionally, PhD student Cheyenne Mack will provide some information regarding her research on purple martins and how students can be involved with her project.

To stay updated on future events and meetings, follow us on social media.

Instagram: @tsuwildlife

Facebook: Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

YouTube: Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



Figure 1. Eight members who helped at the trash pickup stand next to our Adopt-A-Highway Sign.



Figure 2. Member and officer Jay Le helping during one of the spotlight surveys.