

Preface

It is hard to believe that it has been 11 years since the 10th American Woodcock Symposium took place in October 2006! Since that time, stakeholders have completed several significant activities: 1) the Woodcock Task Force, formed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), finalized the American Woodcock Conservation Plan in 2008; 2) AFWA's Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Support Task Force convened a workshop in 2010 to identify priority information for the American woodcock, with partners completing considerable work on the identified priorities; and 3) the Wildlife Management Institute stepped up to coordinate the implementation of the American Woodcock Initiative by forming regional Young Forest Initiatives working with numerous partners. Based on the volume of work completed since the 2006 symposium, woodcock researchers and managers felt it was timely to hold the 11th American Woodcock Symposium.

The 11th American Woodcock Symposium Planning Committee held their first organizing meeting in April 2016. Early in the planning process, the Committee made the decision to format the symposium sessions following the priority information needs identified for woodcock by AFWA's Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Support Task Force. As such, you will find the papers presented at the symposium organized by those four priorities in this volume. In addition, you will find a summary of work completed by partners to implement the American Woodcock Conservation under the leadership of the Wildlife Management Institute. Often plans go on a shelf and collect dust when completed, but partners truly stepped up to implement the American Woodcock Conservation Plan through the regional Young Forest Initiatives, demonstrating how science, policy, and management can influence conservation.

We would like to recognize a couple of key people that made the 11th American Woodcock Symposium memorable. Al Stewart, with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, took the lead on organizing symposium logistics at the Ralph A. MacMullan Convention Center. The staff at the Center did a wonderful job hosting the symposium and Al went out of his way to make sure all participants had a great time! Who can forget the banquet dessert of chocolate pudding and Oreos with gummy worms in it? Andy Weik, with the Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Society, coordinated the financial logistics for

the symposium. This included setting up online registration, paying invoices, and handling the registration process at the symposium. These are often thankless tasks and we appreciate the Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Society stepping up to manage the Symposium finances!

We are also appreciative of the many contributions made by authors, associate editors, manuscript reviewers, and planning committee members. It was a great team to work with over the past two years as we planned the symposium and worked to complete this volume. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing produced this volume, and Emma Molls spearheaded that effort. Emma pushed all the pieces of this together, including the copyediting, formatting, and typesetting. She secured DOI numbers, provided electronic access, and worked with a printer to produce hard copies of the volume. We also thank Ross Hier, who eagerly agreed to illustrate this volume with his original artwork, which we hope you find to be a noteworthy addition.

The American Woodcock has a small, but faithful fan club. Our best data indicate that the number of hunters pursuing the timberdoodle has been declining over the past several decades. However, those that remain are a dedicated group who care passionately about their conservation, which is why we periodically get together to share the latest information about the American Woodcock and how that can inform their conservation. We are hopeful that researchers, managers, and conservationists will continue to come together well into the future as new information about the American Woodcock becomes available. Until next time, enjoy!

Sincerely,

David Krementz

David Andersen

Thomas Cooper

Past Woodcock Symposia

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 1966, Minnesota | 7. 1980, Pennsylvania |
| 2. 1968, Louisiana | 8. 1990, Indiana |
| 3. 1969, Maine | 9. 1997, Louisiana |
| 4. 1971, Michigan | 10. 2006, Michigan |
| 5. 1974, Georgia | 11. 2017, Michigan |
| 6. 1977, New Brunswick | |