

Legislative Session Ends - ISVMA End of Session Report

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned their 2011 Spring Session last night. For an insider's view of the budget wrangling and an update on the bills that ISVMA was working on and/or following this year, please take a few minutes to read ISVMA lobbyist Terry Steczo's [comprehensive legislative report](#).

It is Time to Renew Your ISVMA Membership Dues

ISVMA members can now pay their dues online with a VISA or MasterCard. This added convenience is available through the [ISVMA Member Center](#). When you click on the link, you will be asked to login to go to your account. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, click on the reminder link and the information will immediately be delivered to your email address.

Once you have logged in, you will see a link called "Member Renewal" in the floating orange box on the right hand side of your screen. Click on that link to pay your dues.

ISVMA member dues invoices will be mailed on Monday and are due on June 30, 2011. Please pay your dues before the deadline to avoid any interruption in your membership status. When you pay your dues this year, please notice that the invoice form allows you to make additional contributions to the Veterinary Medicine Political Action Committee (VMPAC) and the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF). I hope that you take advantage of the opportunity to contribute whatever you can afford to these two other organizations that support the activities of ISVMA:

1. VMPAC helps improve both our visibility and the relationships local veterinarians have with their elected officials. These relationships pay off tremendously when we are lobbying for support of our legislative positions. VMPAC contributes to the campaigns of legislators who are friendly to ISVMA and our issues. Typically, we purchase fundraiser tickets and invite veterinarians from the legislator's district to attend as representatives of ISVMA.
2. Donations to the IVMF, a 501(c)3 charity, are used to provide scholarships and to develop and support charitable programs related to the veterinary profession. 100% of every dollar contributed to IVMF is spent on the scholarships and programs established by the organization's mission. All administration for the IVMF is donated generously by the volunteer board members and ISVMA staff.

Your support and participation are greatly appreciated. If you know a colleague or associate that is not a member of ISVMA, please encourage them to join now! Some of the benefits of membership are listed on the [ISVMA website](#).

Legislation Headed to Governor Quinn's Desk Hopes to Reunite Lost Pets with Owners

A bill that will require stray animals to be scanned for microchips twice is now heading to Governor Pat Quinn's desk and will be awaiting a final signature after the Memorial Day holiday. [Continue reading...](#)

Primal Pet Foods Issues Nationwide Voluntary Recall On Feline Chicken & Salmon Formula With A "Best By" Date Code Of 043112-17

May 28, 2011 - Primal Pet Foods has initiated a voluntary recall of their Feline Chicken & Salmon Formula with a "Best By" date code of 043112-17 because this product may be contaminated with Salmonella. The only product affected is limited to Feline Chicken & Salmon Formula with a "Best By" date code of 043112-17. No other Primal Pet Foods products are affected. [Continue reading...](#)

Dogs Help Families with Autism

Families of children with autism attending a recent workshop and support course said that having a dog in the house is making a huge difference in their lives, including helping further their children's

language abilities and calming tantrums. [Continue reading...](#)

Join ISVMA on Facebook - Get Your News Faster!

If you have a Facebook page, go to <http://www.facebook.com/ISVMA> and choose to "Like" the new ISVMA Fan Page!

The new ISVMA Facebook Fan Page has links to many current articles and topics of interest to veterinarians. We encourage ISVMA members to become a fan of the new Facebook page and get regular updates from ISVMA, AVMA and other organizations that bring you news and information you want and need!

About the Photo

The [Eastern Towhee](#) (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is a strikingly marked, oversized sparrow of the East, feathered in bold black and warm reddish-browns – if you can get a clear look at it. Eastern Towhees are birds of the undergrowth, where their rummaging makes far more noise than you would expect for their size. Their chewink calls let you know how common they are, but many of your sightings end up mere glimpses through tangles of little stems.

Males are striking: bold sooty black above and on the breast, with warm rufous sides and white on the belly. Females have the same pattern, but are rich brown where the males are black.

Eastern Towhees spend most of their time on the ground, scratching at leaves using both feet at the same time, in a kind of backwards hop. They spend lots of time concealed beneath thick underbrush. You may see this bird more often when it climbs into shrubs and low trees to sing.

Look for Eastern Towhees in brush, tangles, thickets, and along forest edges where there's plenty of leaf litter for the birds to forage in.

Eastern Towhees breed from southern Saskatchewan east to Maine and south to California and Florida. They spend winters across much of eastern U.S. north to Nebraska and southern New England.

The species has red eyes across most of its range, but the towhees in Florida and southern Georgia have straw-colored eyes. Eye color is variable from southern Alabama to southeastern North Carolina. This pattern may reflect the fact that the pale-eyed form, which was isolated when Florida was an island during the Pleistocene era, is now coming back in contact with the red-eyed form of the mainland.

The Eastern Towhee was considered the same species as the Spotted Towhee until 1995. Where the two forms meet in the Great Plains, hybrids occur.

The Eastern Towhee has a large range, estimated globally at 3,200,000 square kilometers. It is native to the nations of North America as well as Guatemala and prefers forest and shrubland ecosystems, though it has been known to reside in degraded former forests. The global population of this bird is estimated to be 11,000,000 individuals and it does not appear to meet population decline criteria that would necessitate inclusion on the IUCN Red List. The current evaluation status of the Eastern Towhee is Least Concern.

I photographed this male Eastern Towhee in Springfield, IL in the 2008.

Contact Us

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