

**YOUR LOGO
DESIGN
HERE!
CONTEST
DETAILS ON
PAGE 2**

Passport

The Newsletter of the International Wildlife Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society

Volume II, Issue I

September 2013

Going to

Milwaukee?

- Please join us for the Working Group Meeting !
- October 9 12:15—2:15
- Draft agenda on page 7
- Bring your ideas, concerns and opinions.

Not going to

Milwaukee?

- Email your input to an officer—see page 7

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Greetings from the Chair: New Officers and Ways to Contribute

Greetings from the Chair of the International Wildlife Management Working Group! I hope everyone is off to a fun and productive fall and that we see many of you in Milwaukee at the TWS national meeting October 5-10th. Our IWMWG meeting is slated for Wednesday October 9th 12:15-2:15. We are still working to increase visibility and communication among working group members and we hope to hear from many of you, as your participation in this effort is paramount. This is the second issue of the PASSPORT and Claire Crow, IWMWG member, continues to provide the vital link, as editor, in putting this newsletter together. Our goal is to produce two issues a year; we fell behind

with just one issue this past year, but plan to produce



Martha Desmond, Chair, TWS International Wildlife Management Working Group.

another issue this spring. If anyone has something international in scope that would be interesting to highlight in

our newsletter, please contact myself or other officers. We would like to continue to share experiences that are of interest to our membership and highlight the successes of our members.

This will be a fall of change for the IWMWG. As you all know, we held elections this past winter and officers will be assuming new positions starting with our October meeting. I thought I would take a little time in this issue to introduce our officers to those of you who may not have met us.

Robin White has been an officer since our meeting at Snowbird Utah in 2010 and she will be replacing me as the new chair. Robin has a Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she focused on biogeography and wildlife ecology with an emphasis on *(continued on page 3)*

Development Assistance and Wildlands in the Developing World

By Steve Berwick

Many professionals involved in international wildlife research and management are increasingly calling for improved transparency and accountability from development donor agencies such as the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development,

as well as international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although international development assistance generally embraces a sincere effort to improve economic conditions while conserving natural resources, all too often projects fail to achieve the

expected poverty alleviation. Nearly \$2.5 trillion has been spent on foreign aid over the past fifty years, and a lack of expected results has frustrated practitioners. While aid in Africa increased about 2½ times in the twenty-five *(continued on page 6)*

Perspectives on Our Working Group's History and Future



We continue with the theme of interviewing individuals instrumental in the development and growth of the International Wildlife Management Working Group. For this issue of your Passport, Theresa Fiorino interviewed past chair and long-time active member of the IWMWG, Merlin Shoesmith.

Merlin Shoesmith retired from the Manitoba Department of Conservation in 2001, but remains active in the field of conservation. He has been involved with TWS for 50 years and has served on numerous committees. From 2003-2006, Merlin served on the Global Involvement Taskforce, which developed recommendations on how TWS could serve as a more international society. One of the major results of this work was the creation of TWS' Canadian Section. I caught up with Merlin to hear his perspectives on TWS and the Working Group's (IWMWG) international

engagement.

While TWS has been involved in several international conferences, Merlin feels that there are opportunities to do more internationally: "TWS, and the IWMWG in particular, have many research scientists and organizations that have been involved with some excellent projects. They have tremendous amounts of expertise about species across borders. Such experience could be applied to international issues and we need to encourage their involvement." Merlin feels that there is room for improvement on how working groups operate within TWS, and that developing more continuity in understanding our role is vital. "In order to promote our work, we could offer assistance in outlining our involvement in TWS's strategic plan." "It's important that all of the working groups are embraced and

that everyone understands what to expect as far as maintaining working group participation."

Merlin leaves us with one final thought. "I think it would be great if the

"It's important that everyone understands what to expect as far as maintaining working group participation."

IWMWG developed a 3-4 year project where we could involve our members on a more regular basis. With our expertise as wildlife scientists and managers, we could really accomplish some great things and show what we stand for."

You heard the call folks, let's hear some ideas!

"In order to promote our work, we could offer assistance in outlining our involvement in TWS's strategic plan."

Your Creative Design Needed: Logo Design Contest

We need a unique logo for our website, newsletter and membership announcements. This is an awesome opportunity to apply your creative energy and/or skill to the field of international wildlife management. If interested in helping the working group make our mark, please join in the competition and submit your ideas for a distinctive logo. The logo should be a simple design involving two to three colors, be of adequate resolution that can be printed in a variety of sizes without losing quality, and reflect the international nature of the group. Please send your submissions to either Robin White (Rpwhite@usgs.gov) or Tree Fiorino (Theresa.fiorino@gmail.com) by November 15, 2013. We will announce the winner in our next newsletter.

"We need your unique logo design for our website, newsletter and membership announcements."

Greetings from the Chair *(continued from Page 1)*

Nearctic avian migrants, specifically the upland sandpiper on its breeding and wintering grounds. She worked for the U.S. Congressional Office of Technology Assessment on impartial scientific assessments for Congressional committees on natural resource issues, before taking a position with the international environmental NGO World Resources Institute (WRI). At WRI, Robin worked on international projects including a global assessment of grassland ecosystems and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in a global evaluation of dryland ecosystems and a synthesis report for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Robin now works for the U.S. Geological Survey headquartered in Reston, VA, as part of the Office of Science Quality and Integrity. She hopes to encourage TWS student members to pursue their research interests on international projects and looks forward to working with the group to find new opportunities for innovative and collaborative ways to address important wildlife management concerns.

Theresa Fiorino, whom most of us know as Tree, is moving into the chair-elect position. Tree began her career working for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps, followed by six years with the National Park Service. As an undergraduate in the Wild-

life Management program at Humboldt State University, her interest in international issues drew her to interdisciplinary research on the establishment of a community conservation area in Kenya. Her M.S. research brought her to Russia where she focused on the impacts of institutional instability on the Russian Protected Area System. Since 2010, she has served as the Secretary/Treasurer for the IWMWG, working with the other officers to increase the visibility and effectiveness of the group.

Aletris Nelis is our newest recruit and will assume the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Aletris is primarily interested in human-carnivore conflicts and in 2008 founded Conservation CATalyst, an international nonprofit organization devoted to addressing these problems. She has served as a board member for the Society for Conservation Biology North America and is a graduate of the TWS Leadership Institute. Since 2002, she has been working in Namibia conducting research on caracals, servals, cheetahs, leopards, and jackals. Aletris looks forward to serving the IWMWG and expanding opportunities to share its wealth of wildlife ex-

pertise with those countries most in need.

I (Martha) will move into the past chair position. For those of you who do not know me, I am a member of the faculty in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University. My area of interest is avian ecology with a focus on birds in grassland systems. My international interests have taken me to Mexico where I have studied nonbreeding grassland birds for many years and worked closely with the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua. I am also interested in tropical ecology and international education. I have worked extensively in Belize mentoring a graduate student studying Scarlet Macaws and have lead three field classes to that country. The officers serve to facilitate, but it is the membership that makes the working group function and succeed. We desperately need someone to volunteer to serve as the website liaison working with the TWS webmaster to help keep our website up-to-date, informative and interesting. This is position will take only a little time, yet will help us stay visible and connected to all members. If you have those skills and would like to be more involved in TWS, please contact me or one of the other officers. The person who assumes this position *(continued on page 6)*



Robin White will take on the duties of working group chair at the IWMWG meeting in Milwaukee.



Theresa "Tree" Fiorino, current Secretary/Treasurer, will become the chair-elect of our working group this October.



Aletris Nelis will assume the position of Secretary/Treasurer.



Student Perspectives: Summer Experiences in Costa Rica

Daniel E. Bird (left) from the Santo Domingo (Kewa) Pueblo, New Mexico, is currently a senior in the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University.

“My research was done on mammal fruit removal rates ... I also got to assist (with) ... research spanning birds to bugs.”

For the 2013 summer I was privileged to have the opportunity to take part in the Native American & Pacific Islander Research Experience program under the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica. This was a two month summer program that supported my travel and exploration of Costa Rica’s vast rainforest, including visits

to La Selva, Las Cruces, and Palo Verde biological research stations (low, mid and high elevations respectively), meeting and interacting with native peoples of Costa Rica, attending research presentations, and making great friendships. Importantly, I was able to

southern Costa Rica close to the Panama border. In the process I gained more knowledge and experience in the field of tropical biology. I also got to assist my peers on their independent

“This was honestly the opportunity of a lifetime”



research projects spanning birds to bugs. This was honestly the opportunity of a lifetime, the diversity of plants and animals was amazing, the people I met were wonderful and the guidance and mentorship that I received designing, carrying out and conducting my owl research was phenomenal.



The author, front row, third from right, spent the summer learning and researching in Costa Rica.

conduct my own research project, with the help of a research mentor, while I was in-residence at the Las Cruces Biological Research Station for 6 weeks. My research was done on mammal fruit removal rates in rainforest and in an abandoned pasture in



Milestone Announcement: Jim Ramakka Retiring

Long-time officer, dedicated working group member and past chair, Jim Ramakka is retiring (for the second time) as National Wildlife Program Leader at the Bureau of Land Management. Congratulations Jim! Jim will be moving from the past-chair position to continue as a regular working group member. We all wish him the best of luck, look forward to continuing our friendship and hope to see him often. Our first issue of the Passport had a lengthy interview with Jim by Tree Fiorino. You can find that issue posted on our website at <http://www.wildlife.org/subunits/working-groups>.

Student Perspectives: Summer Experiences in Costa Rica

Leah Harper (right) is currently a senior in the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University.

This summer I had the fantastic opportunity to go to Costa Rica working as a field assistant at La Selva biological station. I worked for Marcelo Araya, a graduate student at NMSU studying long-billed hermit hummingbirds. I absolutely fell in love with Costa Rica, it is the most alive place I have ever been. I saw something new and wonderful every day. A typical day during the field season would have me waking up at 4:30am to the guttural cries of howler monkeys, crowing roosters, singing birds, vibrating insects and the sound of our neighbor Don Manuel calling "gato, gato, gato" to his cat. We would bike a short way into the field station to have breakfast at an open air cafeteria. Often this was a great time to spot incredibly colorful birds such as tanagers,

honeycreepers, toucans, and manikins. After breakfast we got ready for the field. Long-Billed Hermits are lekking birds meaning all the males congregate in one area to display for the females. La Selva has many paved trails and we were able to get close to many of the leks by bike and then hike the rest of the way.

"The most alive place I have ever been."

Trekking through the jungle is sweaty, dirty, and intense. The air is humid and thick with the earthy smell of decaying plants and you must constantly be aware of where you are stepping. It is very disorienting and easy to get lost because you can't see anything except the thick tangle of vegetation. The main dangers are venomous snakes such as the terciopelo, the very large bullet ants, and walking

into giant spider webs (not a fun thing to do if you are a bit arachnophobic). Marcelo has been working on this project for four years and has compiled a lot of data to test a few different hypotheses. At the different leks we mist netted the birds and measured everything that could be measured, took DNA and feather samples, banded them, and put temporary color markings on them. We observed the birds with binoculars using the color markings to distinguish between the different individuals and marked perches to map their territories. We also filmed displays, interactions and recorded their vocalizations. We returned from the field in time for lunch and spent the rest of the evening at the computer recording and analyzing the data. Then it was time to go home make dinner and get some sleep for another day.



Trekking through the jungle is sweaty, dirty



Get Involved with Activities for the IWMWG!

Looking for ways to become more involved with TWS and the International Wildlife Management Working Group? Become the IWMWG liaison to the TWS webmaster! The best way to communicate with our working group membership is through the website and we need help keeping our site up-to-date, informative, and fun. Take advantage of this opportunity to support the group by volunteering your time. If interested, please contact one of the working group officers (see page 7 for contact info).



Greetings from the Chair *(continued from Page 3)*

will work closely with the officers and the TWS Webmaster. We also need to develop a logo for the working group that we can use on our newsletter, website, letterhead, etc. So we invite any of you with artistic talent to submit potential entries. This is our second appeal! We would like to develop a Facebook page and are looking for a Facebook-savvy member to volunteer their time and talent in this area. Please contact us if you are interested!

There are still other ways to contribute. If you have any ideas for symposia, workshops or other events that IWMWG could be involved in please contact us, we are interested. We would like to highlight international experiences of our members in this newsletter. Please contact us if you have something to share. Finally, I continue to be a strong proponent of this group hosting international field courses

for wildlife students and members. Unfortunately, the funding source I targeted last year did not host a competition due to sequestration; however, I continue to actively look for opportunities in this area. We look forward to hearing from many of you and seeing you at the upcoming TWS meeting. Please feel free to contact me or any of our officers if you have ideas or comments.

Martha

Mark Your
Calendar:

8th International
Congress for Wildlife
and Livelihoods on
Private and
Communal Lands

Sept 7-12, 2014

YMCA of the Rock-
ies, Estes Park, CO

[http://
events.warnercnr.col
ostate.edu/iwmc-
2014/](http://events.warnercnr.colostate.edu/iwmc-2014/)

Development Assistance *(continued from Page 1)*

years after 1970, the per capita GDP has declined by that same amount. One third of the children under five years in age in these aid areas are malnourished; their growth stunted. The goal of preservation of biological diversity is often addressed through the creation of protected areas. Currently, an estimated 370 million indigenous people in 4,500 distinct cultures are struggling to survive in the modern world. Often, newly-created protected areas call for these people to relocate in exchange for economic gain. Unfortunately, economic benefit has failed to materialize

for most people living in any given protected area. These mostly indigenous populations account for much of the world's cultural diversity. Because most of these people hold land and nature sacred as the source of their lives and culture, the loss of their homeland is both economically and spiritually impairing. Additionally, the protected areas system has failed to assess ways in which the tools of applied range, forest, and wildlife sciences could be utilized to adapt traditional indigenous land uses to the constraints imposed by protected area conservation.

These pressing concerns, combined with a lack of the government stability needed to insure regulatory control and transparency in the recipient countries, have resulted in an international development system that has not lived up to expectations. If we desire to effect positive change in the management of renewable resources and the economic well-being of people in developing nations, then Western scientists, managers, and donor organizations will need additional training and to re-calibrate our way of doing business.



Steve Berwick is a former professor of wildlife, range, and forestry topics at Yale University who now dedicates his time to consulting and writing. He has conducted research and project work in 46 countries throughout the developing world. His current book focusses on the need for wildlands, emphasizing the neurobiology of environmental affiliation.

**THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY**

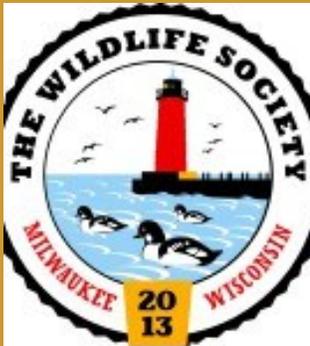
**INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
WORKING GROUP**

Editor: Claire Crow
corvid.feat@gmail.com

I hope you enjoy your
Passport. Please send me
your comments and
suggestions for future
issues!

Special thanks to Tree
Fiorino for soliciting and
editing numerous articles
for this issue!

We're on the Web!
[http://joomla.wildlife.org/
international/index.php](http://joomla.wildlife.org/international/index.php)



**International
Wildlife
Management
Working Group**

The International Wildlife Management Working Group provides a forum for TWS members to network with wildlife professionals from around the world on a wide range of issues pertaining to wildlife management and habitat conservation.

The Working Group provides an opportunity to exchange information with colleagues worldwide and to seek technical assistance from other countries when local expertise is not available.

The Working Group reaches out to wildlife professionals in all areas of the world to offer the collected expertise of The Wildlife Society in an international context.

Working Group Officers:

Chair: Martha Desmond (mdesmond@nmsu.edu)

Chair-elect: Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)

Secretary/Treasurer: Theresa Fiorino (theresa.fiorino@gmail.gov)

Past Chair: Jim Ramakka (jramakka@aol.com)

AWMS Liaison and Representative: Rick Baydack (Baydack@cc.umanitoba.ca)

**Draft Agenda for WG Meeting at Annual Conference
Milwaukee Oct 9, 2013 12:15 PM-2:15 PM**

1. Welcome and Introductions , Additions to Agenda
2. Review/approval of minutes from annual meeting, Portland, Oregon, Oct 2012
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports from Representatives:
 - a. International Union of Game Biologists (IUGB) Paul Krausman, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - b. Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS)
5. Updates from Subgroups
 - a. Role of public/private Lands Partnership Conference – Tree Fiorino and Del Benson
 - b. IWMWG Vision Statement and Legacy – Merlin Shoemith
 - c. IWMWG in Japan International Congress – Rick Baydack
6. Student Development Working Group - Matt Gould
7. Additional Business
 - a. Newsletter
 - b. Logo
 - c. Website/Facebook
8. New Business
 - a. Future Symposia
 - b. Database
9. Round Robin Working Group Discussion