



Hope to see you in
Winnipeg,
Manitoba!



International Polar Bear Research
Centre Experience field trip offered
with TWS in Winnipeg.

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Passport

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

Volume IV, Issue 1

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Message from the Chair

Hello IWMWG Members:

The past six months have been busy for our working group members. There has been writing and planning for the International Wildlife Management Congress, travel to Sapporo, participation in a IWMWG-sponsored symposium at the Congress, participation in workshops and field sessions in Japan, planning for the annual TWS meeting in Winnipeg, and applying for our travel grants to both the Congress and the annual meeting. And, of course, the pleasure of awarding the grants to the finalists!



Robin White, Chair of the
International Wildlife Management
Working Group

Photo courtesy Robin White.

Our IWMWG-sponsored symposium in Sapporo titled “A World of Opportunities and Challenges: Graduate Students Seeking International Collaboration and Education in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation” was well-attended and was praised for its applicability to the international wildlife management student community. This issue includes a synopsis of the speakers at this session by Melissa Merrick, an interview with co-organizer and presenter Hsiang Ling Chen, and a summary from Jonathan Derbridge, who was awarded our travel grant to attend the Congress. Our Working Group meeting in Sapporo also was well-attended and provided the opportunity for additional international members to join in our networking and planning activities.

Several of us have been actively involved in planning the wildlife/energy symposium in Winnipeg, in collaboration with TWS Working Groups on Energy and on Climate Change. Check out this symposium on Tuesday morning, Oct 20th, which will include a series of speakers followed by a panel discussion.

Our annual WG meeting will be held on Monday Oct 19th from 12:30 to 2:30. Please let me know if you would like to add a topic to the draft agenda in this newsletter. We will be looking for a team to help organize a session for the 2016 Conference in Raleigh, NC so come with ideas for discussion. Looking forward to seeing you all in Winnipeg! - Robin

Fifth Congress in Sapporo a Truly International Event

By Jonathan Derbridge



Jonathan Derbridge, recipient of the 2015 IWMWG travel grant to Sapporo, Japan, with his wife Akiko, who participated in the “kimono-wearing” social event at the Congress.

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Derbridge.

“Talks covered a very broad array of conservation topics and taxa, and were generally high quality. This Congress also did a great job of including the local community.”



Jonathan Derbridge (right) with Tatsuki Shimamoto, a PhD student at Obihiro University in Sapporo, Japan,

Photo courtesy of Melissa Merrick.

Jonathan J. Derbridge, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona, was awarded a travel grant from our Working Group to attend and present at the 5th International Wildlife Management Congress in Sapporo, Japan. We asked him to summarize his work and his experience at the Congress.

The IWMC’s well-organized program of talks and social events, and the enthusiastic and unfailingly polite efficiency of our Japanese hosts, made the meeting a joy to attend. This was a truly international event, and with over 40 countries represented it certainly succeeded in its goal of sharing global wildlife conservation knowledge and experiences. Talks covered a very broad array of conservation topics and taxa, and were generally high quality. This IWMC also did a great job of including the local community, e.g., a very cool high school jazz band at the opening ceremony, and a high school student poster session on the last day.

Of the presentations I attended, the IWMWG-sponsored symposium stood out for me. I’m biased as an organizer, but it really epitomized the benefits of such a meeting, especially at this career stage. A session on invasive species included research on deer management in New Zealand, and reports on nutria management in Italy and in the US (the latter, from USDA Wildlife Services, was one of the best presentations I saw). The small mammals contributed papers session that I moderated at the end of the final day was great too, with at least 10 nationalities represented in talks covering rodent diversity surveys, parasites, exotic species, urban populations, natal dispersal, and climate change effects. Despite being the last session of a packed agenda, it was very well attended and high quality talks were delivered with energy and professionalism.

The IWMC provides a great opportunity to learn about different approaches to dealing with common global wildlife conservation problems. Students and early career professionals will also benefit from learning about completely different models for wildlife management (e.g. those that do not include hunting). Undergrads and masters students can learn of new opportunities for their next education stages, and PhD students can be networking for international postdocs, research partners etc.

Wildlife professionals in the US can best contribute to international cross-boundaries science by publishing research in peer-reviewed journals. Second to that is to actively seek out collaborators in other countries. I’d say the best way to start is to attend a meeting like the International Wildlife Management Congress. Many attend precisely to learn about what others are

doing and to share their own insights. Attendees are implicitly interested in exchanging cross-boundary ideas, so these meetings are fertile ground for establishing relevant networks.

Overall, the congress underlined two salient facts for our profession. First, wildlife conservation problems are global in scale and urgency. Second, dedicated and passionate individuals are working hard to understand and solve these problems all over the world. This was my first IWMC, and the experience set the bar high. I'm already looking forward to the next one in Chile.



Reception in Sapporo.

Photo courtesy of Jim Ramkaa.



IWMC organizers on stage in Sapporo.

Photo courtesy of Jim Ramkaa.

Jonathan's research:

My work focuses on the effects of invasive species on ecologically similar natives. To answer questions on this global conservation problem I use a variety of approaches to study a model system in SE Arizona's Pinaleno Mountains where introduced Abert's squirrels occur in syntopy with the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel. I also study naturally occurring syntopic populations of these species as references for understanding invasion effects.

I am using experimental removals of Abert's squirrels in the Mount Graham study area to examine effects on home range size, habitat use, and diet. I am also examining behavioral impacts, first by using remote cameras to estimate cache pilferage by Abert's squirrels at red squirrel middens, and secondly by using a presentation experiment to test gradients of response to simulated territory invasions.

At the IWMC I presented data from experimental removals of invasive Abert's squirrels that suggest Mount Graham red squirrel home range sizes are affected more through intra- than interspecific competition.



Mount Graham Red Squirrel

Photo: Amy /APS



Abert's Squirrel

Photo: National Park Service

Grad Students Seek International Education and Research

By Melissa Merrick



Melissa Merrick, second from left, with Hsiang Ling Chen and colleagues in Sapporo, Japan.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Merrick.

“This symposium successfully integrated perspectives from wildlife professionals and international graduate students.”

In the wildlife profession, international graduate education and research experience are increasingly necessary for establishing careers; however, limited opportunities, funding, and bureaucracy present barriers to these key objectives. Because wildlife conservation is an international challenge, and policy and methods vary considerably among countries, a global perspective on wildlife science and policy, and cultural diversity is key for fostering international collaborative work. To help facilitate discussion regarding the importance of international graduate wildlife study and ways to initiate collaboration, the TWS IWMWG sponsored a symposium titled “A World of Opportunities and Challenges: Graduate Students Seeking International Collaboration and Education in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation” at the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress. This symposium successfully integrated perspectives from wildlife professionals and international graduate students on opportunities and challenges to wildlife study and collaboration abroad. Our objectives for the symposium were to 1) outline the importance of international students within graduate wildlife programs, 2) detail ways to make research collaboration happen, 3) demonstrate examples of international collaboration and associated benefits, and 4) present personal testimonies from international students.

Our fantastic speaker line up brought together a diversity of ideas and perspectives, each complementing the others. The audience included approximately 30 attentive attendees, many of whom stayed late to personally talk with presenters following the symposium. Our speakers were as follows:

1. Dr. Rick Baydack, University of Manitoba, Manitoba, Canada. Why are international graduate students important to the wildlife profession? Dr. Baydack discussed why as a research society, TWS needs to embrace international perspectives in wildlife conservation and management, and bringing in international graduate students is a key component of that goal.

2. Dr. John Koprowski, University of Arizona, Arizona, USA. Science without borders: collaboration across space and time.

Dr. Koprowski outlined ways that he has sought out international collaboration with both international colleagues and graduate students, and how these experiences have enriched his career. He provided an important list of tips to help students take advantage of international opportunities.



Dr. John Koprowski (front center) with colleagues and a class at Kiyosato Nature Center, Japan

Photo courtesy of Melissa Merrick.

Grad Students, *continued.*

3. Dr. Tatsuo Oshida, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Sapporo, Japan. Introduction to international collaborative works in Asia.

Dr. Oshida spoke about his efforts to initiate and maintain international collaborative research throughout Asia and what these efforts have meant to him throughout his career. He identified the most important requirements for successful international collaborative research in Asia, including understanding and respecting differences, and explicitly defining the purpose of collaborative work.



4. Dr. Martha Desmond, New Mexico State University, New Mexico, USA. International experience in wildlife ecology fosters global connections and conservation.

Dr. Desmond discussed the importance of international graduate students and why international research experiences are so important for students in wildlife ecology and conservation. Dr. Desmond presented some of her own experiences as a postdoctoral researcher in Mexico and her current role promoting student exchanges between the US and Mexico and advising international graduate students, and what these experiences have meant for her professionally.

5. Walt Anderson, Prescott College, Arizona, USA. Wildlife conservation and ecotourism: opportunities for educational leadership.

Professor Anderson outlined how environmentally and culturally sensitive, low impact, educational ecotourism can provide unique opportunities for graduate students in wildlife conservation and management. He provided many examples of how students have developed successful wildlife conservation careers via ecotourism, and how ecotourism has also lead to collaboration and educational opportunities for international students.

6. Dr. Hsiang Ling Chen, San Diego State University, California, USA. Go abroad: 10 things I wish I'd known before taking off.

Dr. Chen spoke from the perspective of an international student who has successfully obtained a PhD in wildlife conservation and management from an international university and has gone on to a postdoctoral position made possible by her past research efforts and international experiences. Dr. Chen inspired students in the audience by outlining the obstacles she had personally overcome and telling students that they are stronger than they think and they really can make international research and graduate school a reality.

Grad Students, *continued.*

7. Tatsuki Shimamoto, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Sapporo, Japan and **Masahiro Ohnishi**, Texas A&M University, Kingsville, Texas, USA. Japanese Cowboys: collaborative projects, research experience, and education in the southwestern USA.

Tatsuki and Masahiro spoke from the perspective of current PhD students who have successfully sought out international experiences and collaboration abroad in support of wildlife conservation, how they made it happen, and what they have gained from these experiences. Tatsuki presented the opportunities and limitations in obtaining funding for international exchanges in Japan, and how he successfully managed a research exchange with the University of Arizona, and attended the National TWS conference in Pittsburgh, PA. Masahiro outlined his 8 years of experience in the US as a Master's and PhD student in Texas, how he made connections with local and National agencies, and his incredible efforts and success at gaining relevant wildlife experience and funding himself throughout.

Our symposium ended with a question and answer session that generated a discussion among audience and panelists on how funding and graduate student support varies among countries, and the pros and cons of each approach. Students in the audience came away informed with a better understanding of the effort that is required to make international education and research opportunities a reality, and empowered with the knowledge that they had the ability to make it happen. The TWS International Wildlife Management Working Group plans to be actively involved in the 2019 International Wildlife Management Congress and welcomes ideas and suggestions for future symposia topics of interest to our membership.

On behalf my fellow symposium co-organizers Jonathan Derbridge and Dr. Hsiang Ling Chen, I would like to thank the TWS IWMWG and organizers and attendees of the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress for their support and for helping us bring a timely and well-received symposium to an international audience. We look forward to further opportunities to promote international engagement and collaboration among wildlife professionals.



Masahiro Ohnishi and colleagues at the Congress.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Merrick.

“Students in the audience came away informed with a better understanding of the effort that is required to make international education and research opportunities a reality, and empowered with the knowledge that they have the ability to make it happen.”

Interview: Dr. Hsiang Ling Chen

Hsiang Ling Chen is a post-doc in Department of Biology and Department of Geography in San Diego State University for a NSF project “Sustainability of Payments for Ecosystem Services in Coupled Natural and Human Systems” in Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve, China. I interviewed her about an array of topics, including the IWMC, cross-boundaries wildlife science, and being an international student. —ed.

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself and your research?

A: I am from Taiwan and got my BS in Biology and MS in Life Science there. I came to US to study in August 2009 and received my PhD in Wildlife Conservation and Management with a minor in Natural Resources Studies from the University of Arizona in May 2015. My dissertation focuses on barrier effects of roads and traffic on animal occurrence, space use, and movements, with tree squirrels as my study species. My general research interests are the effects of human activities on wildlife, especially behavior, road ecology, urban ecology, wildlife management and conservation, and human-dimensions of wildlife.

Q: Please briefly summarize your presentation in the symposium.

A: In my presentation “Study abroad: 10 things I wish I would have known before taking off” I shared tips about the application process for a PhD program including timeline of preparation, funding opportunities, and contacting potential advisors. I talked strategies to deal with the challenges of studying abroad such as foreign language, course work, and cultural differences. The key point is that I am not a special case: like most international students, I struggled and battled to get my degree. For those students who plan to study aboard, since I can do it, you can do it!

Q: What were some emerging themes of the IWMC, overall?

A: This is the first time IWMC was held in Asia. I think we now know much more about what research have been done in Asia, and it is impressive. Lots of works are not published because of low interest (for example, NGOs in Japan are not interested in publishing their works in international journals) or language.

Q: What aspects of the conference were most rewarding to you?



Hsiang Ling Chen (second row, fourth from left) with a field trip group on a deer overpass.

Photo courtesy of Hsiang Ling Chen.

“Like most international students, I struggled and battled to get my degree. For those students who plan to study abroad, since I can do it, you can do it!”

“We know now much more about what research has been done in Asia, and it is impressive.”

Interview, continued.

A: The most rewarding aspect personally and professionally is to expand my global social network. I was the chief organizer of symposium “Road Ecology in Asia: Current State of the Science of Impacts and Mitigation”, and co-organizer of “Science without borders” symposium and a roundtable “Road Ecology in Asia: Future Directions to Achieve a Sustainable Transportation System”. I gave two presentations (one about studying abroad and the other about my PhD research). This was my first time to organize a symposium in an academic meeting. It took lots of time to organize two symposia and a roundtable especially when I was so busy to finish my PhD and apply for post-docs, but it is all worth of it. Now I have made connections in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, and China.

“It took lots of time to organize two symposia and a roundtable, especially when I was so busy to finish my PhD and apply for post-docs, but it is all worth it.”

Q: Would you recommend the International Wildlife Management Conference to other early-career wildlife professionals?

A: Yes. The more you participate, the more you gain.

Q: In your opinion, how can wildlife professionals in the United States of America best contribute to international, cross-boundaries science?

A: By providing funding, training and education to pass knowledge about concepts and principles in wildlife conservation. Methods like survey techniques would not be that useful, as natural environment varies a lot in different countries. For example, helicopter surveys to count number of bighorn sheep won't work in Taiwan because of dense vegetation.

“The IWMWG can support and nurture early-career professionals by providing a platform to make connections and share experiences. I hope to continue the discussion after the symposium and conference.”

Q: In your opinion, how can the TWS International Wildlife Management Working Group support and nurture early-career professionals working in international wildlife management?

A: To provide a platform to make connections and share experiences. We have newsletter, Facebook page, but maybe an e-mail list serve? I feel a symposium like this is a good start, but I hope to continue discussion after the symposium and conference.

IWMWG Awards Travel Grant to Winnipeg Conference



The officers of the IWMWG are pleased to announce that Camille Warbington has been selected to receive a travel grant for attending The Wildlife Society's 22nd annual conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba from October 17-21, 2015. The following describes her work, which she will present as a poster at the conference.

Well-regulated hunting can provide crucial funds for conservation, especially in areas seldom visited by tourists. However, sustainable harvest management requires knowledge about populations and habitats. Sitatunga is a unique semi-aquatic African antelope that provides economic incentive for conservation of wetlands, yet we know little about this spiral-horned species. My research will address the gaps in knowledge using three technologies: radiotelemetry, mark-resight population estimation, and genetic analysis. GPS telemetry will facilitate estimation of home range size, habitat use, and activity patterns. Mark-resight techniques allow estimation of population size and demographics, while supplementing individual space-use data. Genetic analysis using modern DNA methods will characterize the genetic diversity of the population, and can be used to estimate the extent of immigration and genetic mixing among populations. My research will improve harvest management on a local scale, and provide a framework for sitatunga management throughout its range. This project will expand on existing wildlife management techniques, which can be translated for use in North American game populations. Enhanced harvest management for sitatunga can provide motivation for landowners to conserve wetlands and contribute to sustainable economies in rural Africa.

Camille Warbington is a PhD student in Ecology at the University of Alberta. Camille obtained a Master's degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. She is passionate about science outreach, including through new media like podcasts and web videos. Check out www.wildlifediscoveries.com for details about her PhD research and other news from Uganda, Canada, and elsewhere!

NEW! Recently published with support from TWS Southwest Section, **Amphibians and Reptiles of the United States-Mexico Border States / Anfibios y Reptiles de la Frontera Mexico-Estados Unidos**, edited by Julio A. Lemos-Espinal, is a bi-national effort written in English and Spanish. Each chapter is devoted to one state (4 in the US, 6 in Mexico), covering over 600 species of toads, frogs, salamanders, turtles, sea turtles, alligators, lizards, snakes, and sea snakes. The book will be available this fall from Texas A&M Press (<http://www.tamupress.com/product/Amphibians-and-Reptiles-of-the-USMexico-Border-St,8370.aspx>).

Draft Agenda for IWMWG Meeting at Winnipeg Conference

International Wildlife Management Working Group
The Wildlife Society
Annual Meeting

October 19, 2015, 12:30 to 2:30 pm
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Draft Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Adjustment/Final

Review and approval of minutes from 2014 annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA

Treasurer's Report (Adrian Roadman)

Report on 5th International Wildlife Management Congress, Sapporo, Japan
Summary and comments from Tsuyoshi Yosida, Rick Baydack, Koichi Kaji
Summary and comments on Working Group meeting (Martha Desmond, Jim Ramakka)

Report on overall international activities by TWS Council (Rick Baydack, Jon Hauffer)

Future activities for IWMWG

Upcoming issues of Passport

Ideas for proposed symposium for Raleigh/coordination with other working groups

Networking activities/Facebook presence

Other



**THE WILDLIFE
SOCIETY**

**INTERNATIONAL
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
WORKING GROUP**

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

The deadline for
submissions to be included
in the next Passport is
March 11, 2016.

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

We're on Facebook!
[https://facebook.com/
IWMWG?ref=stream](https://facebook.com/IWMWG?ref=stream)

**International
Wildlife
Management
Working Group**

Vision

The IWMWG will increase collaboration among wildlife professionals around the world.

Mission

The IWMWG will provide a forum for information exchange through expanded use of communication technologies.

Goals

1. To promote meetings and electronic communication among professionals worldwide working in wildlife management and habitat conservation.
2. To sponsor symposia and workshops and to host forums at The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference and other affiliated meetings.
3. To assist TWS staff in preparing technical reviews, position statements and other materials related to international wildlife management issues.
4. To encourage wildlife professionals worldwide to become members and participate in TWS activities and events.

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Chair: Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)

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