



# Passport

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

Volume IV, Issue 2

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## Message from the Chair

By Robin White, photos by Claire Crow

### Greetings IWMWG Members!

I have received several inquiries from members asking about how they can become more involved with international wildlife management activities. In response to this question, I would like to use this message to provide some ideas on how to do this. With this Working Group's mission of providing a forum for information exchange and the ultimate vision of increasing collaboration among wildlife professionals around the world, there are several important ways to be informed and active in the field of international wildlife management. I've described several suggestions below.

Keep up with current literature and announcements including the various TWS publications and communications. You may have noticed you will be receiving more issues of *The Wildlife Professional* this year, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the magazine. With the TWP going from 4 to 6 issues you will have even more opportunities to be informed about important wildlife issues. As Editor Nancy Sasavage notes, in the most recent issue there is "a celebration of the next generation of wildlife professionals." TWS President Gary Potts points out "TWS has recognized the need to step up the cadence of communication with members." This includes the increase in TWP issues as well as other communication outlets including the *eWildlifer* newsletter and daily updates on the TWS website. Although these communications are not always focused on international topics, as part of the WG Mission, we can work to see that international issues are covered.

Participate in the International Wildlife Management Congress. The Wildlife Society has co-hosted four international congresses around the world. In 2012 the Congress was held in Durban, South Africa. In 2015, the Congress was co-hosted by The Mammal Society of Japan and The Wildlife Society in Sapporo, Japan. At the Sapporo Congress, the IWMWG sponsored a session on "A World of Opportunities and Challenges: Graduate Students Seeking International Collaboration and Education in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation" with several of our members and officers participating as speakers. You can read summaries of events from this meeting at the website: <http://www.iwmc2015.org/>. Stay posted for the date and location of the next International Congress.

Participate in other international wildlife conferences. You may hear about additional meetings from colleagues, posts on our FB page or by reading the many TWS communications. Several upcoming meetings with international appeal include:

**The 65<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association** to be held July 31-August 5, 2016. This meeting will be hosted by Cornell University and held at the Greek Peak Mountain Resort in central New York State. The plenary session will emphasize the role of health in sustaining wildlife populations with special sessions on turtle health and on bringing more social science to wildlife research. Check the conference website at <http://www.wda2016.org>

**The XII International Congress of Wildlife Management in the Amazon and Latin America** will be held in Quito, Ecuador August 8-12, 2016. This meeting will take place on the Universidad of San



Robin White (center) facilitating the IWMWG meeting at the 22nd TWS Conference in Churchill, Manitoba (2015)



The TWS annual conference offers field trips to locations such as the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, Winnipeg, Manitoba,

**The TWS annual conference includes field trips to share perspectives, experiences, issues and problem-solving.**



Field trip attendees photograph playful polar bears at the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre.

**“Active involvement in the working group is a great way to find out about current international work and to network with colleagues with similar interests.”**

Francisco, Quito campus and is intended to attract both students and professionals interested in wildlife management in the Amazon and Latin America. Primary goals of the Congress are to foster interactions and exchange knowledge regarding research and conservation of wildlife in the Neotropics. Themes of the Congress include: wildlife monitoring at the landscape scale, human-wildlife conflicts, zoonotic diseases, and impacts of exotic species on wildlife. Read more at the Congress website: <http://tropicalbiology.org/xii-international-congress-of-wildlife-management-in-the-amazon-and-latin-america/>

**The North American Ornithological Conference (NOAC)**, sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and other ornithological societies will be held August 16-20, 2016 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The focus of this meeting will be "Bringing Science and Conservation Together" with an expectation of being the largest-to-date North American Ornithological Conference. Attendees are expected to include ornithological professionals and students from North America, the Caribbean, and around the world. See details at the conference website: <http://americanornithology.org/content/north-american-ornithological-conference-2016#sthash.1cHPKUw4.dpuf>

Become actively involved in the IWMWG. Active involvement in the working group is a great way to find out about current international work and to network with colleagues with similar interests. Remember to check our FB page and to add comments on your work or upcoming events of interest to other international wildlife scientists. With the Working Group's goals of: promoting communication among professionals worldwide working in wildlife management and habitat conservation; sponsoring symposia and workshops, The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference and other affiliated meetings; and assisting TWS staff in preparing technical reviews and other materials related to international wildlife management issues, there is potential to become active in ways that fit your own professional interests.

Joining the slate of Working Group officers is a key way to become more involved. Although not everyone feels confident in putting their name forward for election as an officer, it is often the best way to learn quickly and to interact with other working groups and colleagues. And remember, this newsletter can be a vehicle for you to learn about other international collaborations as well as to inform the WG membership of international work you are doing.

Attend the TWS annual conference and the WG face-to-face meetings. Be sure that the TWS 2016 Annual Conference, October 15-19 in Raleigh, NC is on your calendar. **See our travel grant announcement on page 7!** We will have our annual face-to-face meeting with the biannual change in officers based on our election this month. We also are supporting a symposium focused on expanding partnerships related to the management of wildlife in zoos with proposed topics including current conservation research, training, project evaluation, community engagement and education. Acting Chair Jonathan Derbridge is taking the lead on this collaboration.

Thank you for your support and active participation!

*Robin*



Jon Hauffler, Tsuyoshi Yosida, and Hiroyo Uehara at the IWMWG face-to-face meeting.



The underwater tunnel feature at the Assiniboine Park Zoo provides an unusual perspective.

## Interview: Understanding and Protecting Species Across Boundaries

By Martha Desmond, photos courtesy of Charles Britt

Charles Britt studied nest survival and nest-site selection of Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao cyanoptera*) in Belize and Guatemala for his M.S. research at New Mexico State University. He co-founded the Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team, and is currently working with partners to initiate a Belize-wide program to assess and monitor Yellow-headed Parrots (*Amazona oratrix belizensis*). He serves on the Boards of the Belize Raptor Research Institute and the Rainforest Restoration Foundation. He also owns a wildlife consulting business in New Mexico. Martha Desmond, past chair of the IWMWG, interviewed Charles Britt about the Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team for your *Passport*.



Charles Britt monitoring Yellow-headed Parrots, a globally endangered species.

### What is the purpose of the Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team, how long has your group been in place and how did you get started?

The Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team was formed in 2012 in response to overwhelming poaching of Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao cyanoptera*) nests in the Chiquibul Forest of Belize. Roni Martinez (Belizean) and I decided to form this team and employ locals who exhibit a strong passion for conservation and the willingness to learn the skills necessary to be effective. Ultimately, we see our mission as to work across Belize with local and international partners to understand and protect endangered species in their natural habitat through research, education, protection and advocacy.

### How does your team get involved in projects in Belize and what types of projects are you involved in?

We are currently involved directly leading as well providing support for projects. These projects generally develop through networking with current and potential partners and discussing current and potential threats and data gaps we have for species in Belize and the region. As a result, we are leading a national effort, in collaboration with partners, to estimate the population of the globally endangered Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*). This has been 3 years in the making and we're excited to get the project started. It will provide a much needed update to the status of this species and establish baseline data for the National Biodiversity Monitoring Program being led by the Environmental Research Institute – University of Belize. We continue to collaborate with Friends for Conservation and Development and Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic on Scarlet Macaw nest monitoring and protection efforts in the Chiquibul Forest. Recently, we provided field support for a study of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler migration being led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We also are interested in supporting additional avian and reptile/amphibian data collection in data poor areas where we are already conducting projects. Of course, environmental education is an important aspect of future conservation in Belize. Roni Martinez dedicates a lot of effort towards visiting primary schools.

### Who funds your research?

As is true for many conservation non-profits, we have to be creative with fundraising. We rely on small-to-medium sized grants for much of the work, but have also benefitted from generous private donations and crowdfunding efforts. It really requires a little bit from a lot of people. One of our largest public funders has been Loro Parque Fundación. We have also been supported by National Audubon Society, Hagen Avicultural Research Institute, Rainforest Restoration Foundation, and The Parrot Fund (Amigos de las Aves).

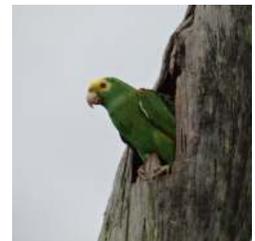
### What are the main goals of the team?

We have quite a few goals that guide our activities: 1) Reduce the impacts of Scarlet Macaw and Yellow-headed Parrot nest poaching by providing a firm presence in breeding areas; 2) Collect data on all wildlife observed within project areas to determine long-term population trends; 3) Identify threatened and endangered wildlife species that are currently not adequately protected; 4) Work with partners to establish long-term species survival programs; 5) Work with partners to increase wildlife conservation efforts with an emphasis on providing protection and collecting data in protected areas across Belize; 6) Train Belizeans in field biology and observations, as well as anti-poaching techniques; 7) Inspire civic pride for the conservation of national species of conservation concern; and 8) Visit schools to conduct environmental education campaigns.

**“Within a single year we reduced Scarlet Macaw nest poaching to 30%, and we kept poachers from stealing any chicks at all in that area two years later.”**



The Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team formed to protect Scarlet Macaws (above) from poaching.



The team is leading a national collaborative effort to estimate the population size of Yellow-headed Parrots (above and below).





Environmental education campaigns at schools inspire civic pride in conservation.



***“Because we do not manage a specific protected area, we are in a unique position to collaborate across protected and unprotected areas to achieve species and habitat protection.”***

### **What are some of the accomplishments you are most proud of to date?**

Following my research at New Mexico State University on Scarlet Macaws in 2010 and 2011, our partners Friends for Conservation and Development documented an increase in poached Scarlet Macaw nests that peaked at 90% along the Chalillo Reservoir. We began collaborating in 2012 to reverse this trend. Within a single year we reduced the poaching to 30% and in 2015 we kept poachers from stealing any chicks in that area. We are really proud of this collaborative effort. There is still a lot of work ahead of us but we're moving in the right direction. We have also been working with several organizations to increase nest monitoring and protection of Yellow-headed Parrots. It has been great to see these organizations improve their programs and now join us in a national effort. We still have a lot of work to do before we can call it a success but the momentum is there and we are all working hard, together, to make this an effective national program.

### **Is there anything else about the Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team that you think our readers would find interesting?**

The Scarlet Six Biomonitoring Team is a grassroots effort to conserve the amazing biodiversity in Belize. I really think this is a successful example of national and international partners coming together with a single vision and bringing the best they can offer into a synergistic effort. Because we do not manage a specific protected area, we are in a unique position to collaborate across protected and unprotected areas to achieve species and habitat protection. In many instances we see ourselves as bridging the gap. One new development is our plan to expand our organization by merging with another avian-focused NGO, Belize Raptor Research Institute. This organization has been involved in raptor research and conservation efforts for several years. Research includes establishing an annual Raptor Watch, an ongoing Solitary Eagle nest monitoring program, and Snail and Hook-billed Kite research. You can check them out on Facebook or their website: <http://www.belize-raptor-research.com/>. This merger will likely happen by the end of the year, so we definitely have bigger and better plans for the future of avian conservation in Belize!

### **Is there an opportunity for interested readers to become involved?**

Absolutely! Our conservation efforts rely heavily on the assistance of volunteers in the field. Our Scarlet Macaw nest monitoring and protection efforts begin in May and continue into August. Our Yellow-headed Parrot nest monitoring and protection effort begins in April and continues to mid-June. If you are interested in joining our conservation efforts, then please message us through our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ScarletSixBiomonitoringTeam>.

## **Young Wildlifers Contribute to Polar Bear Conservation**

By Claire Crow

While checking out the posters at The Wildlife Society's annual conference in October, I found some emerging young wildlife scientists standing with a poster explaining their polar bear research. These high school students from the USA and Canada were participants in the International Student-led Arctic Monitoring and Research Program (ISAMR), an international group of students and instructors who monitor the effects of global climate change in the greater Churchill/Wapusk ecosystem (Canada). ISAMR's focus is primarily on permafrost and polar bears.

The students examined the level of symmetry in whisker patterns in polar bears, comparing 29 bears for which photographs of both sides of the face were available. The level of similarity in whisker patterns between the two sides of the face was not significantly different from the similarity in whisker patterns between two different individuals. Whisker patterns in different photos of the same side of the same individual's face (control) scored as matches. Asymmetry measures in whisker pattern were significantly lower in photos taken 2003-2005 than in photos taken 2012-2014. The increase in asymmetry over the past decade may indicate an overall decrease in body condition from environmental stresses during gestation and pre-puberty. These environmental stresses may be linked to climate change.

Julia Miiles (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Cory Silver (Baltimore, Maryland) shared their experiences by answering some interview questions:



Melissa Gilbert (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Julia Miles (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and Cory Silver (Baltimore, Maryland) with their poster at The Wildlife Society's 22nd Annual Conference, October 2015. Photo by Claire Crow.

**What was the most surprising thing you learned about doing scientific research?**

Julia: I didn't expect to become so passionate about the project the first time I went to Churchill. Also, the amount of data that we collect that ends up not being usable was surprising... I had no idea how much trial and error was present in the research process.

Cory: I learned that, however cliché, I, as an individual, can contribute to scientific research. Research is often something reserved for those in the upper echelons of academia, and the experiences that I have had have been incredibly empowering in this regard, learning that I can make meaningful contributions to such an advanced field at such a young age.

**What was the most difficult part of the process?**

Julia: As we always have such a large amount of data being collected in a relatively short period of time, it can be hard to keep track of it all and keep everything in order. The distance between us also presents some difficulties because communication is always more challenging when you are not face to face. We find that we are much more productive in Churchill when we are all working together than when we are in our respective cities.

Cory: Collecting data in the field can be challenging. There's often a small window of time where we have a clear view of a bear at the angle we need, so we needed to be able to take quality data in a short period of time.

**What part did you like best?**

Julia: While doing the research, we also had the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of the people in northern Manitoba. We had the chance to make mittens from moose hide and fur and listen to a talk given by one of the elders in the community. I also really like the fact that the research is relevant. As global warming will be one of the biggest issues to plague my generation in the near future I think it is very important to find many ways to observe its impacts, whether they be obvious and visible or subtler but equally important.

Cory: The data analysis process... I've found that there's no better feeling than discovering the trends and relationships that make our data meaningful, that validates those hours upon hours in the field.

**How do you feel about contributing to the conservation of polar bears with your study?**

Julia: Even when you are very young, you understand that polar bears are being affected by global warming. The polar bear has become the face of the detrimental effects of global warming and is a worldwide symbol of the need for conservation efforts. Having the opportunity to study the iconic animal you have known and cared about ever since you were a kid is an incredible experience.

Cory: I'm thrilled that our research may contribute to the conservation of polar bears. Although we're still in the early stages of our research, it's a wonderful feeling to know that we're involved in something as critical as polar bear conservation, and I'm excited to see what new findings we'll come across in the future.

**Is there anything else you would like our readers to know about the program?**

Julia: Far too often the ideas, opinions and contributions of youth are overlooked by society. We tend to be brushed away and told that we don't understand what's going on, that we are too young and inexperienced to be capable of developing opinions, that we are too idealistic and will someday be crushed by reality. I strongly believe that this is untrue. The consideration of the contributions of youth is vital in the process of creating a sustainable and innovative future, whether the focus is environmental, economic or social. We do have valid contributions to make, and we would like to be given the opportunity to make them. ISAMR provides us with an opportunity to showcase the fact that we do care and that we are capable. It is an incredible initiative and I will be forever grateful for my opportunity to be a part of it.

Cory: I'm incredibly grateful for these research opportunities and cannot thank the teachers and professors that have supported this program enough.

*"It was incredibly empowering to learn that I can make meaningful contributions at such a young age."*



In addition to the polar bear research, Julia particularly enjoyed interacting with the local community in northern Manitoba and learning to make mittens from moose hide and fur. Photo courtesy of Julia Miles.

*"There is no better feeling than discovering the trends and relationships that make our data meaningful."*

*"Global warming will be one of the biggest issues to plague my generation... The consideration of the contributions of youth is vital in the process of creating a sustainable and innovative future."*



Melissa Merrick drives a field vehicle provided by the Black Mambas anti-poaching unit. The mostly-women unit conducts patrols, dismantles poaching camps, removes snares, and nurtures orphaned rhinos.



Above and below: Transfrontier Africa research assistants Lisa Trueman and Ches Gundrum assist with plant identification in Balule.



White rhino cow in Balule Nature Reserve.

## Collaborative Research Conserving Rhinos in South Africa

By Melissa Merrick

The following summary was condensed from a submission by Melissa Merrick and John Koprowski of the University of Arizona, Craig Spencer of Transfrontier Africa, and Mike Stokes of Western Kentucky University. Photos are courtesy of Melissa Merrick. —ed.

In November 2011, Balule Nature Reserve (part of the Kruger Associated Private Nature Reserve (APNR), South Africa) received a founder population of 19 black rhinos. These, along with several resident white rhinos, were fitted with VHF transmitters. After five years of collecting spatial data weekly, we have a unique data set that allows us to examine space use, resource selection, and niche segregation between black and white rhino; analyses that are necessary to mitigate poaching risk and improve conservation and management for rhino within Balule and the greater Kruger area.

We are working to develop collaborative research among Western Kentucky University and The University of Arizona in support of rhino conservation and management within Balule. Our aims for this research are to create a digital classified vegetation map and subsequent spatially explicit models of resource use and space allocation between black and white rhino and associated poaching risks - outcomes identified as being of highest conservation need within Balule. With generous support from The Phoenix Zoo and Transfrontier Africa, we are able to begin to address these critical conservation needs. This research has served to strengthen ties among international academic institutions, non-profit conservation organizations, and a large, active nature reserve with diverse stake holders, and will provide a scaffold upon which we can build and grow long-term conservation research projects.

### Conservation Goals and Outcomes:

- Develop a digital vegetation map of Balule Nature Reserve
- Model space use and resource selection for rhinoceros within Balule
- Identify degree of habitat differentiation between black and white rhinoceros
- Model spatial and temporal determinants of poaching risk for black and white rhinoceros within Balule Nature Reserve
- Work closely with APNR management to develop key habitat and herd management strategies to promote population increases and limit rhino poaching opportunities
- Support local efforts of citizen anti-poaching teams as well as Balule personnel

### Work completed to date:

To develop a classified vegetation layer for Balule Nature Reserve, we started with ArcGIS analysis of Landsat 8 satellite imagery and NDVI to aid in the identification of unique vegetation characteristics within Balule and in surrounding areas. We followed up with *in situ* assessments of vegetation characteristics, utilizing a stratified random sampling scheme, to identify the ecological significance of each computer-generated class.

Although there is significant overlap in species composition among the 7 most dominant vegetation classes in Balule, there are structural differences in stem density and dominant woody species within the 3 canopy height classes, which appear to be important in determining food availability and resource use between the two rhino species. White rhino are grazers and generally select for more open vegetation community types with a grassy understory, whereas black rhino are browsers and select vegetation community types with dense, woody understory and mid-story as this species can reach browse up to ~ 2 m. The ecological significance of plot density and woody plant composition at various canopy height classes has provided a basis for which we can begin to assign meaningful vegetation community types to each of the dominant classes in Balule.

We are working to align our naming of each vegetation community class with those identified for the Timbavati Nature Reserve (another associated private reserve located near Balule), developing class names that are ecologically meaningful and descriptive and that will permit comparison between these two important conservation-minded reserves.

With a classified, digital map of vegetation in place for Balule, we are now directing our efforts towards understanding how rhino use the landscape, associate with each other, and associate with important ecological and physical landscape features, and how these associations differ between sexes and species. We are currently analyzing black and white rhino spatial data collected over 5 years of radio telemetry and sightings to estimate home range size and home range overlap within and between species and the proportion of each vegetation type in rhino home ranges to identify important habitat requirements. We will use data on vegetation, topography, distance to roads, distance to water, and distance to dwellings at each rhino location in contrast to random locations in an effort to parameterize a resource selection function that will predict the probability of each species being found in a particular location based on the known relationships between rhino locations and the environmental variables in the model.

We aim to incorporate these research findings into improved management plans for rhino in Balule. It is our hope that our research program and associated findings serve as a model for scientifically-based resource management that other reserves in the region begin to follow.

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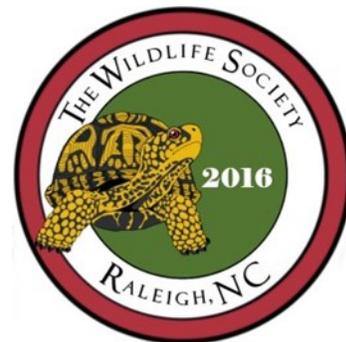
## Announcement: Travel Grants Available for Annual TWS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina

The IWMWG is offering two travel grants for attending The Wildlife Society's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference in Raleigh, North Dakota from October 15-19, 2016. Visit the conference website for details regarding conference venue and schedule now available at <http://www.twsconference.org/>.

The travel awards will be for the amount of 500 U.S. dollars each. All IWMWG student members in good standing (dues for TWS and the working group are current) who are presenting a technical paper or poster at the conference, preferably related to the IWMWG's overall mission, are eligible to apply.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the WG Chair and successful recipients will be notified via email.

Applications will be mailed out to the current membership list and be available in pdf format from the TWS website as well as on our working group site: <http://drupal.wildlife.org/international/>



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## Polar bear management in Canada

By Robin White, photos by Robin White

On a visit to Churchill last fall, before the annual TWS conference in Winnipeg, I had the opportunity to observe an airlift of a polar bear from the Churchill holding facility.

The polar bear facility in Churchill is used to hold problem bears that have been reported in human-bear encounters or that have been found scavenging for food in the Churchill area. While in the holding pens (typically up to 30 days), the bears are not fed (to prevent acclimatization to being provided food by humans) but are given water or snow. Before freeze-up of Hudson Bay, when bears are released from the holding facility, they are tranquilized and transported in a sling by helicopter to areas north of Churchill.



For more information on the Churchill holding facility and Hudson Bay polar bear populations see:

Lunn, N. J., Servanty, S., Regehr, E. V., Converse, S. J., Richardson, E. and Stirling, I. 2016. Demography of an apex predator at the edge of its range – impacts of changing sea ice on polar bears in Hudson Bay. *Ecol Appl.* doi:10.1890/15-1256

Regehr, E. V., N. J. Lunn, S. C. Amstrup, and I. Stirling. 2007. Effects of earlier sea ice breakup on survival and population size of polar bears in western Hudson Bay. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:2673-2683.

Windsor, Bob. 2013. Polar Bear Alert Program. *The Fur Harvester*:22 (Winter 2013-2014), 3-6.



## Interview: Mexican Group Connects Wildlife Researchers

By Claire Crow

David G. Solórzano completed Veterinary School at the National Autonomous University of Mexico where he also obtained a masters degree in Animal Health and Husbandry. He pursued a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Wildrange Management at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. His research has been focused on the general ecology, nesting and alimentionation in the wild of Montezuma quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*) and an endemic mexican quail, the barred quail (*Philortyx fasciatus*). Recently he has been a part of a project on masked bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus ridgwayi*) at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona. He has been a member of the Partridges-Quails-and-Francolins (PQF) Specialist group since 2007, and the Galliformes Specialist Group of the IUCN-Species Survival Commission 2013-2016. He is currently the Scientific Board Director of the Alianza Mexicana para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre. He contacted the IWMWG officers, and I interviewed him about our mutual areas of interest.

### **When was Alianza Mexicana para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre founded, and how did the organization begin?**

The Alianza Mexicana was created by the fusion of two previous nonprofit organizations: Asociación para la Investigación y Conservación de la Vida Silvestre (Association for Wildlife Research and Conservation) and Aviarío Sonorense para la Protección de Especies Silvestres (Sonoran Aviary for the protection of wild species). These organizations have been working since 2009 and 2012, respectively. The Alianza Mexicana was founded in October 2014.

### **How many people work for the Alianza Mexicana?**

We have one main researcher representing each region of Mexico: Northwest (Hermosillo, Sonora-Headquarters), Northeast (Saltillo, Coahuila), Central (San Luis Potosí) and South (Chiapas). Each one of these Chapters has their own team (assistant researchers, students and volunteers) ranging from 15 to 30 members each chapter.

Also, we have representatives for North America (Dr. Raul Valdez, Research associate and professor at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces), the Caribbean (Mexican Biologist Christian Martínez Bello Ph.D. candidate in Conservation Biology at Universidad de la Habana, La Habana, Cuba), and Central America (Costarican Biologist Eugenio García López of Observatorio Ornitológico de Costa Rica and instructor of The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's BirdSleuth-International curriculum in Costa Rica).

Additionally, we have specific departments for Special Conservation Issues, Education and Awareness and Youth Pro Conservation.

### **How does the organization connect researchers to collaborate and share information?**

The Alianza Mexicana has a strong network of researchers from the most important Mexican universities and collaborations abroad like New Mexico State University, Texas A&M, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge - US Fish and Wildlife Service and Instituto de Investigación en Recursos Cinegéticos (Game Species Research Institute) at Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (Spain). However we are constantly looking to establish formal agreements and collaborations and we are open to working with any kind of educational and research institutions around the globe.

### **What is the next goal that you want the Alianza Mexicana to achieve?**

Our next goal is to consolidate more conservation projects in northern, central and southern Mexico, and to establish new projects in North and Central America and in the Caribbean. We are deeply interested in exchange experiences with people from other continents, and in participating in international networks regarding wildlife management and conservation issues.

### **Can researchers from other countries join the organization to get help finding research needs, jobs or internships in Mexico?**

We are open and willing to support and admit researchers from any part of the globe who share aims with La Alianza Mexicana. Currently we have undergraduate Mexican students for internships and graduate students for research. We recently began exploring an agreement with a youth society from Minnesota (US) to receive students in Mexico. We can definitely help to align researchers with research opportunities and logistical support.

### **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

We are deeply grateful for this chance to share what Alianza Mexicana para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre is doing and this opportunity to give recognition to all the people involved in this enormous effort who support us in many ways.

**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!

**We're on the Web!**  
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**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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## **Working Group Officers:**

**Chair:** Robin White (rpwhite@usgs.gov)

**Chair-elect:** vacant

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Adrian Roadman

**Past Chair:** Martha Desmond (mdesmond@nmsu.edu)