



# Passport

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

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New Contest!  
See page 7 for  
how to win!!

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## Message from the Chair

### Greetings everyone!

I hope that you had a wonderful winter and are now on the final approach to spring (or fall depending on your hemisphere)! The October TWS National Conference in Reno seems a mere month ago. It remains fresh in my mind because it was full of great stuff – great discussions, collaborations, and also great responsibility. At the 2019 conference, our working group held a well-attended business meeting, co-hosted a symposium on international urban wildlife management in collaboration with the Urban Wildlife Working Group, and hosted a panel discussion on the future of international involvement by TWS. Our panel discussion was a great opportunity to learn and share ideas from current and past TWS & AFS leaders and international colleagues and came at a very opportune time as, at our October business meeting, President Gary White tasked our working group with drafting a report with 10-year recommendations for TWS international involvement. From our panel discussion, there emerged 4 thematic areas where TWS could engage internationally that would benefit both TWS members and our international colleagues. To gauge support for various mechanisms of international involvement, as well as to understand how our own members are involved internationally, we created a Future of International Involvement Survey that was distributed to our membership via email, as well as circulated on our Facebook page, and distributed to TWS members via the weekly eWildlifer. For those of you that participated, I truly thank you. Your input has been incorporated into our report to Council and helped us prioritize recommendations for how TWS can best engage with and maintain relevance to international wildlife practitioners while best serving member needs.



*IWMWG Chair Melissa Merrick (right) acknowledges the dedication of working group member Kyra Hefty at the WG's business meeting in Reno.*



*IWMWG Chair-Elect Scott Brainerd called in to the business meeting from Norway. Pictured with Melissa is Past-Chair Jonathan Derbridge.*

Among the proposed ways of engaging internationally, several are already in practice or being tried out and will be highlighted in this issue. These include supporting the development of international TWS chapters and associated conferences, TWS-sponsored symposia and workshops at international conferences hosted by partner organizations, providing opportunities for students and professionals to engage internationally, and the development of a peer co-mentoring program between established wildlife professionals in North America and students or early career professionals in other countries. In this issue, we learn from organizers Drs. Raul Valdez and Luis Tarango about the first and second Annual Conference of Wildlife Conservation and Management

in Mexico, provide updates on the IWMWG- and TWS Council-sponsored symposium on community-based conservation at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, we learn from Dr. John Koprowski about the importance of international research, mentoring, teaching, and service for students and professionals alike, and we hear about a CoalitionWILD's great co-mentoring program. The IWMWG is continuing our new co-mentoring program, Wildlifers Without Borders, again this year and hope that it along with CoalitionWILD's program might serve as models for a larger scale program that could be adopted by TWS. If you are interested in being a mentor for the 2020 national TWS conference in Louisville, please let us know.

While in Malaysia I got the chance to travel with colleagues to Taman Negara National Park, one of the world's oldest rainforests. I also witnessed first-hand the conservation and management issues resulting

from landscape conversion for palm oil production outside of the park – and noticed several common challenges faced by wildlife and people living at the periphery of protected areas globally. This highlighted many benefits of working and engaging internationally: the exposure to new species, ecosystems, cultures and ideas as well as a greater understanding of our common wildlife values, challenges, and threats - all of which can be approached more effectively by working together.

If you are interested in getting more involved in our working group and helping to shape the trajectory of TWS international involvement, I invite you to submit nominations for two upcoming vacancies: Treasurer and Chair-elect.

Thank you for your continued support. I welcome your ideas and suggestions and hope to provide more ways for our members to be directly involved in TWS international engagement activities moving forward.

Sincerely,



## Mexico's National Wildlife Conference a Growing Success

By David García Solórzano and Claire Crow

Photos courtesy of Raul Valdez and Luis Tarango

**“There are no Bachelor programs in wildlife management and conservation. There was an urgent need to provide a forum where undergraduate students could associate with and learn from wildlife professionals.”**

The First Annual Conference of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Mexico convened during 14–16 November 2018 in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. This national wildlife conference was the first of its kind in Mexico. In order

to learn about this conference and what opportunities for international wildlife management and conservation it offers, **David García Solórzano** interviewed **Dr. Raul Valdez (RV)**, a major supporter of the conference from the US, and **Claire Crow** interviewed **Dr. Luis Tarango (LT)**, president of the organizing committee for the conference.

**Q: What sparked the implementation of this landmark conference?**

**LT:** In Mexico, the professionals dedicated to the management and conservation of wildlife largely operate independently with minimal cooperative research efforts and they do not have a forum in which to meet periodically to discuss ongoing wildlife research. When I obtained my master's degree in 1994, there were some efforts made with the aim of uniting professionals and forming cooperative efforts to manage our wildlife species. The pioneering persons in this field were Dr. Julio Carrera of Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro, Dr. Alberto Lafón of the University of Chihuahua and Dr. Fernando Clemente Sánchez of the Postgraduate College with the support of some professors of universities in the United States, especially Dr. Raul Valdez. However, for various reasons, Mexico has not officially established a specific society in the management and conservation of wildlife as has occurred in the United States and Canada under the auspices of The Wildlife Society. Dr. Valdez and I have taken the challenge of officially establishing a Mexican society of wildlife management and conservation. As part of this goal, we organized the inaugural national wildlife conference.



*Dr. Luis Tarango opening Mexico's inaugural wildlife conference in Nov 2018.*

**Q: What were the overall goals in organizing the conference?**

**LT:** Mexico is one of the twelve countries that is classified as megadiverse; it ranks fifth in biodiversity. However, due to anthropogenic activities, this biodiversity is continually threatened. Therefore, the primary objective of the first national conference on wildlife management and conservation was to unite efforts, share knowledge and establish a network in management and conservation of Mexican wildlife. We saw a great need to unite the efforts of wildlife professionals, managers, administrators, governmental and NGO's, and students to advance wildlife conservation and management in Mexico. We also saw a great need for our students to interact with professors and students from other universities to further their educational backgrounds.

In Mexico, there are bachelor and postgraduate programs in the areas of biology and natural resource management, and although several institutions offer courses at the graduate level related to the management of wildlife, there are no bachelor programs that train professionals specifically in wildlife management and conservation. Hence there was also an urgent need to provide a forum where undergraduate students with an interest in wildlife conservation could associate with and learn from wildlife professionals.

**Q: How was attendance at the first conference?**

**RV:** The total conference attendance was 594, of which 269 (45%) were students, with about 97% of students being undergraduates. Such high student attendance is impressive considering there are no wildlife undergraduate degrees offered in Mexico. There was a total of 18 posters and 71 oral presentations, most of which were presented by students (graduate and undergraduate). There were 10 plenary speakers, of which 6 were from the US.

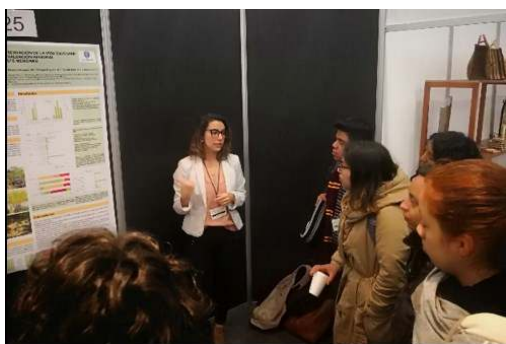
**LT:** We were very impressed by the attendance of 269 students from diverse institutions and 19 Mexican states, and above all, a significant number of female students (43.5%) and 47.1% of total attendance was female.



*Attendees line up to register for the inaugural conference.*

**Q: What was your biggest challenge in orchestrating (implementing) the conference?**

**LT:** Initially, I had very difficult moments. My main concern was to raise enough money to pay the conference costs, especially for the rent of the Convention Center. The generous support of TWS and Dr. Valdez were especially helpful.



*Poster session at the inaugural conference.*



*Speakers from CKWRI-Texas A&M Kingsville*



*Dr. Valdez with Mexican students*

***“We strongly believe there is a real possibility of formally establishing a Mexican chapter of TWS.”***

**RV:** The conference donation of \$5,000 from TWS was used to support student-travel costs and expenses. The conference organizers (Luis Tarango, Raul Valdez, Cesar Posadas, Sergio Jiménez, Karla Logan, Juan Martínez, Genaro Olmos, Guillermo Espinoza, Cesar Elizaliturri) are appreciative of the financial support provided by TWS. Fidel Hernández (formerly SW Section Representative to TWS Council) spoke during the opening ceremonies on behalf of TWS and acknowledged TWS support for the conference.

**Q: Tell us about the follow-up conference last year.**

***“In a survey following the first conference, 140 attendees expressed interest in forming a professional society focused on wildlife professionals in Mexico.”***

**LT:** The Second Annual Conference of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Mexico convened during 12-15 November 2019 in San Luis Potosí, Mexico in the Bicentennial University Cultural Center of the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí. The original plan was for the conference to convene biannually but because of the great success and enthusiasm of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual conference, we decided to hold the second conference in 2019; the conference was scheduled in coordination with the framework of the 60th anniversary of the Postgraduate College. Despite budget cuts to public universities and research centers by the current administration of Mexico, the national wildlife conference was very well attended (400 attendees). The conference organizers (Luis Tarango, Raul Valdez, and Cesar Posadas) are appreciative of the financial support provided by The Wildlife Society (\$5,000), the Texas Chapter of TWS (\$1,000) and from other organizations. Gary White (President of The Wildlife Society) and Fidel Hernández (Southwest Section President-elect) spoke during the opening ceremonies. Based on the success of the first and second conference, the Third Annual Conference of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Mexico is being planned and will be held in 2021 in the state of Chihuahua or Zacatecas, México.

**Q: What is the future direction of the conference?**

***“The inclusion of professionals and students from other countries is not only desirable but fundamental.”***

**LT:** In a survey following the first conference, 140 attendees expressed interest in forming a professional society focused on wildlife management and conservation in Mexico. This second conference also generated great interest in furthering wildlife conservation and management in Mexico among faculty, students, managers, and government agencies. Dr. Valdez and I, as well as other Mexican and US professors (all members of The Wildlife Society), have the firm intention of uniting this professional audience and the general public in efforts to further wildlife conservation in Mexico. We strongly believe there is a real possibility of formally establishing a Mexican chapter of TWS. There is unwavering interest in Mexico in developing a strong wildlife undergraduate curriculum and furthering the professional development of wildlife managers. The support of TWS was fundamental to the success of both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wildlife Conference in Mexico.

**Q: In what ways can wildlife professionals and students from countries other than Mexico support the next conference?**

**LT:** The inclusion of professionals and students from other countries in the wildlife conference is not only desirable but fundamental. Professionals and students from other countries can share their experiences in the management and conservation of wildlife. These experiences will surely enrich our knowledge and will

*Editor's note:  
translation to English of  
presentations is made  
available at this conference*

help Mexican nationals gain new insight in the management and conservation of our natural resources. Likewise, the attendance of people from the US and Canada will be an opportunity to establish professional and student working relationships throughout North America. Also, wildlife professionals from other countries will become aware of the many opportunities for cooperative research and educational endeavors.

**Q: Are there ways in which the IWMWG might be involved in the next conference?**

**LT:** We welcome the participation of the IWMWG. We hope that the IWMWG can send a representative to advise us on how to improve the conference and to participate as a speaker. We also would like for the IWMWG to consider holding the TWS International Wildlife Management Congress in Mexico; we will be well prepared to host a conference and we hope the IWMWG will consider this opportunity. Mexico would be an excellent site. Mexico now ranks sixth in world tourism (39 million tourists) and fifth in biodiversity. Mexico would be an appealing venue for wildlife professionals and students.

**Raul Valdez, PhD**, is Professor Emeritus and Research Affiliate in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology at New Mexico State University, USA.

**Luis Tarango, PhD**, is Profesor Investigador Titular at the Colegio de Postgraduados, Campus San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

**David García Solórzano, PhD(c)**, is the Director of Scientific Council for Alianza Mexicana para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre (Mexican Alliance for Wildlife Conservation), Mexico.

**Claire Crow, MS**, is the founder and editor of this newsletter.

**“We would like for the IWMWG to consider holding the International Wildlife Management Congress in Mexico.”**



Drs. Tarango, left and Valdez, right

## Mexican Wildlife Book a Comprehensive Update and key reference for North American international approach

The long-awaited book *Wildlife Ecology and Management in Mexico* by Raul Valdez and J. Alfonso Ortega Santos was published by Texas A&M University Press in 2019. The original Spanish-language version *Ecología y Manejo de Fauna Silvestre en Mexico* was published in 2014 by Colegio de Postgraduados, to build on Aldo Starker Leopold's *Wildlife of Mexico* (published in 1959, currently out of print) with updates based on wildlife research and changes in Mexican state and federal laws and policy. In the preface, the editors state that the book is a comprehensive reference designed to serve land managers, including communal landholders and private landowners, as well as natural resource professionals. It provides information on the status, distribution, ecological relationships, and habitat requirements and management of the most important game birds and mammals in Mexico. The book discusses current threats, challenges and strategies for resolving these issues. Mexico's location at the transition between New World temperate and tropical regions makes the information in this book essential to holistic management and conservation of North American wildlife and global biodiversity, and an important tool for interdisciplinary communication and cross-border collaboration.



Photo, above: David Solórzano, left, collaborator, and Dr. Raul Valdez, editor, with the 2014 book.



Photo, left: Cover of the 2019 book.



Dr. John Koprowski

## The Value of International Wildlife Work

**From an interview with John Koprowski by Claire Crow**

Dr. John Koprowski has participated in many different types of international wildlife work, and he sees it as an interwoven fabric of research, mentoring, teaching, service and learning.

As a PhD student, John realized that the same wildlife-related questions that were being asked in the United States were also being asked in other countries. He reached out to scientists in Japan and Belgium, and benefitted not only from their perspectives on the problem at hand, but also from collaboration and friendship that have continued to the present.

The diversity of research projects that John and his students have undertaken is geographically and taxonomically extensive and spans many conservation challenges and cultures. Some examples include Andean bear conservation (Colombia), Neotropical tree squirrel ecology (Perú), the ability of the Ganges river dolphin to persist with hydroelectric dams and local fishing economies (Nepal), educating children on the impact of elephants on savannah ecosystems (South Africa), and altitudinal gradients in biodiversity and baseline climate information (China).

As a mentor, John employs several approaches. He actively seeks international graduate students; this gives all his students experience working with colleagues from other countries. John works to get his US graduate students involved in international projects through a number of funding sources. He has found that cultural interactions can be transformative and considers them an important part of his students' education, even students that don't go on to work internationally.

John found an exceptional opportunity for his students through a friend in Japan. The Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science sent a group of 6 students from Japan to be part of John's research group in Arizona, USA, for a few weeks. The Japanese students accompanied some of John's students in the field, and all the students presented in a symposium. John and six of his students followed up six months later by visiting Tokyo Metropolitan University. This exchange resulted in enormous improvement in the talks of both the Japanese and US students, who developed their presentation style and really honed their focus on their research questions.

Teaching internationally is not limited to full-time employment in another country. John has found that teaching a mini-class lasting several days to several weeks has far more impact than a single invited lecture. He has taught such short courses in Mongolia, China, Japan and Italy.

While teaching a Masters level Biodiversity course in China, John showed a slide depicting a field of uniformly-spaced dots and one of randomly-distributed dots. The students were most interested in the uniformly-distributed dots. He uses the same slide regularly at the University of Arizona, where students consistently find the randomly-distributed dots more interesting. John describes this sudden revelation of a totally different perspective as an "incredibly illuminating event".

Wildlife science is, of course, all about learning. International work adds the dimension of learning about another culture, different perspectives, and different approaches to solving problems. John finds great joy in watching his students learn and grow in a new society, in a new country. Service work sharing information and experiences with local communities in other countries is also very satisfying and can result in social changes that make significant progress in wildlife conservation and management.

"Working internationally provides opportunities to really make an impact on wildlife conservation challenges," says John, "significant impacts beyond what can be done domestically." Simply sharing information and approaches to doing science can create positive change, both at home and in the colleague's country. That's why he is interested in The Wildlife Society continuing, and building upon, its international involvement into the future. "TWS is a mechanism for me to make a difference. With very little investment, international work brings incredible returns through collaboration. Minimal financial investment is needed in many countries to make an impact that matters."

A well-known example of TWS international involvement is the International Wildlife Management Congress, the most recent being held in Japan in 2015. The theme of the conference was "Beyond Cultural Differences". A symposium sponsored by the TWS International Wildlife Management Working Group,

***"He reached out to scientists in Japan and Belgium, and benefitted not only from their perspectives on the problem at hand, but also from collaboration and friendship that have continued to the present."***

***"TWS is a mechanism for me to make a difference. With very little investment, international work brings incredible returns through collaboration."***

titled “A World of Opportunities and Challenges: Graduate Students Seeking International Collaboration and Education in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation”, outlined the importance of international students in graduate programs, detailed ways to make research collaboration happen, demonstrated examples of international collaboration and associated benefits, and presented personal testimonies from international students. In his presentation, John provided tips for students to take advantage of international opportunities. The Congress was an excellent opportunity for US and Japanese students, providing them exposure to different types of talks, diverse perspectives of colleagues, an understanding of many common issues; his US students also benefited from immersion in a different culture. John advocates for TWS to seek ways to continue to support International Wildlife Management Congresses, as well as developing other forms of international involvement that allow TWS members to seek good partners and demonstrate that they will be a good partner. The rewards of international work are sometimes delayed, he says, but the fruits of investing in our profession and in our natural resources will be substantial.

“International wildlife management has made me a better biologist, a more well-rounded teacher, and has increased my passion in conservation.” John advises each of you to reach out, as a member of the global community that manages and cares for global resources, and make an international wildlife connection.

*“The fruits of investing in our profession and in our natural resources will be substantial.”*

### Win a copy of *International Wildlife: Contemporary Challenges in a Changing World* !

by submitting a story on your international work to the *Passport*



#### 3 Easy Steps to Win:

##### 1. Write an article on your international work

(approx. 200-800 words, in a reader-friendly newsletter style, focused on your experiences, best practices for international work, and/or what you learned that would benefit wildlife work in your home country. Articles are not peer-reviewed.)

##### 2. Submit your draft article plus 2-3 photos to the editor at [corvid.feat@gmail.com](mailto:corvid.feat@gmail.com)

Use the subject line: IWMWG article

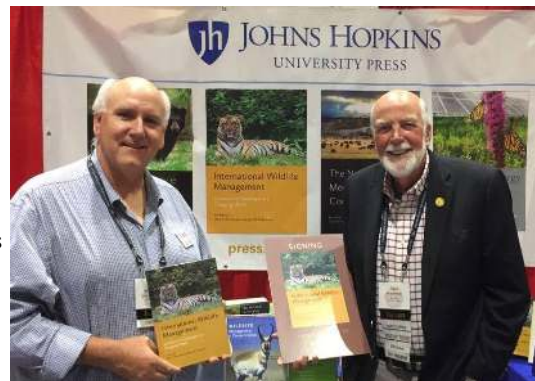
Before April 15 for first chance to win

Before June 1 for second chance to win

##### 3. Respond to the editor's request for revisions or clarification

**2 chances  
to win!**

John is co-editor, together with Dr. Paul Krausman, of a recently published book titled “International Wildlife: Contemporary Challenges in a Changing World”. They viewed the book as an opportunity, says John, to “extend the way that TWS thinks about international wildlife management and conservation”. Emphasizing the need for collaboration, the book was written by an international group of scientists from 6 continents, covering the underlying causes of challenges in common such as climate change, human-wildlife conflict, illegal trade, disease and invasive species, and sharing successful practices including examples of community-based conservation. “The book is designed to transcend the boundaries of locality by providing data and an understanding of the context in which it needs to be delivered, how it will be received and interpreted”, says John, “and to unite wildlife professionals with a common voice to influence global policy”.



John Koprowski (left) with co-editor Paul Krausman at the TWS national conference in Reno.

**John Koprowski, PhD**, is Director of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, and Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Management, at the University of Arizona, USA. He is also a member of TWS IWMWG.

## Opportunities: Your Experience Can Support Emerging Leaders in Global Conservation

By Claire Crow      Photos courtesy of Casey Burns

Photo:  
Jordi van Oort (left) and  
Casey Burns in Rwanda



**“Pairs work as partners in a mutually beneficial relationship, recognizing that they can learn from one another”**

Casey Burns had just finished a Skype call with Jordi van Oort in Rwanda. Reflecting on the call from his office in Alaska, USA, Casey realized that several months into their mentoring relationship, it had just flipped into high gear. He and Jordi had become acquainted and were now beginning to work as a team to address complex wildlife conservation issues. As they got to know one another, they had noticed some common challenges, and now they were sharing the details of their experience, learning from each other’s approaches and puzzling out new strategies together. Not only were both Jordi and Casey benefiting, through their international connection they were contributing to the future of wildlife management.

Have you ever considered supporting the future of your profession by being a mentor? Casey entered international mentorship through CoalitionWILD, a youth-led organization that was created in 2013 at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress. CoalitionWILD developed their mentorship program in 2017 with the goal of “building collaborative and cross generational relationships between emerging environmental leaders and veteran conservationists... to produce meaningful, engaging and productive inter-generational dialogues and relationships.” The organization pairs experienced conservation professionals with early career conservation professionals across the globe. CoalitionWILD is built on the active engagement of young people in “designing the solutions they seek and using their voice”, so that they develop their skills, knowledge and empowerment while actively working to achieve positive changes in conservation. Although the terms “mentor” and “mentee” are used in the mentorship program, pairs are encouraged to work as partners in a mutually beneficial relationship, recognizing that each can learn from the other. In the program’s second year of running (2019) CoalitionWILD partnered with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to widen the program’s scope and global reach. Thus far, the mentoring program has included 76 participants from 36 countries.



Michelle Burns (Casey’s wife), left, with her CoalitionWILD mentee Charles Emogor (a Cambridge student from Nigeria), right, with a California slender salamander (on Charles’s arm)

### The mentoring experience

CoalitionWILD founder and Director Crista Valentino explains that the mentorship program emphasizes an equal partnership in which each partner has as much to contribute as to learn, and “encourages mentors to allow themselves to seek advice, ask questions, and search for new perspectives, and (encourages) mentees to share their understandings, their experiences, and their views.” Participants commit to meeting consistently for 12 months. The pair creates an agreement that spells out the terms of the relationship – CoalitionWILD provides a sample format for this. At the end of the program, participants are asked to provide honest feedback that advises on improvements or additional programmatic elements which would



add to the experience.

The program is loosely structured and is designed to provide tools for success without creating burdensome requirements for reporting and program check-ins. Some of the optional tools available:

- Dedicated Facebook Group
- Email communications, including a monthly email that shares a 'Topic of the Month' that pairs can choose to discuss
- Kick-off call, mid-program call, and wrap up call for all participants
- An all-Mentor call and an all-Mentee call
- Mentorship handbooks and best practice guidelines

#### Casey's experience

#### **Q: What motivated you to apply to be a mentor in this program?**

**CB:** Education, focus and passion are not always enough to get you where you want to be in your wild-life career. My path had key people along the way who helped me through my education, finding my first job, understanding what it takes to be a professional, and reaching a higher level in my field. Without such mentors, young professionals have more difficulty reaching their career goals and contributing to our profession.

#### **Q: How would you summarize your experience in this international mentoring program, overall?**

**CB:** I was excited to be paired with someone in another country but concerned about how much we would have in common, and how much I would really be able to help. My mentee, Jordi in Rwanda, is an intelligent and energetic conservationist. Due to the matching process, we had a lot in common, and plenty to discuss. It turned out to be a great experience, and I was surprised at how much I learned.

#### **Q: What are some challenges that you and Jordi realized that you share in your work?**

**CB:** The conservation of habitat and species is fundamentally a human endeavor, and you must engage local people and political leaders to make a sustainable difference. If they don't see the value, it is difficult to make changes that will be maintained by the community. You must understand the root causes of the issues and address them. You can't just plant trees without knowing and addressing the reason the trees were cut in the first place. From my experience, this seems to be universal, and the strategies for building local trust and support have similar aspects around the world. Jordi and I shared technical resources and discussed experiences in comparable situations working on outreach, soil stabilization and habitat restoration in a predominantly agricultural landscape. When we dug into the details, we found that our challenges and successes shared many traits.

#### **Q: How did mentoring Jordi impact your career? How did it influence your perspective on wildlife management?**

**CB:** The mentors I had early in my career were critical in putting me on a good path. I want to be able to help others as I was helped. Jordi is on the path to accomplish big things, and hopefully I will play a small part in supporting him. Mentoring makes me feel part of something bigger and will have impacts well beyond the timeframe of my career. I have also learned a lot from Jordi about the use of new technology in wildlife and habitat management, which certainly has the potential to be used in Alaska and elsewhere.

#### **Q: What are your thoughts on the value of international communication and collaboration within the wildlife profession?**

**CB:** Aside from the more tangible international conservation opportunities such as migratory species management and habitat connectivity, there is so much we can learn about conservation and wildlife management by experiencing it in other places. By making these international connections, we create a network that makes us able to efficiently capitalize on opportunities and addresses issues when they



*Since finishing the mentoring program, Jordi has moved to a new position at Akagera National Park*



*Casey (left) and Jordi tracking lions in Akagera National Park, Rwanda.*



Photo:  
Jordi van Oort (right) shows mentor Casey Burns the integrated app which Jordi developed to mark and track resources and issues in Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

**“It seems like many established professionals underrate their potential to mentor. You likely have a lot more to offer than you realize!”**

**“You can influence the direction and support the development of emerging leaders in international wildlife management through mentoring.”**

arise. I feel that international collaboration can bridge cultures and create positive experiences that bring people together.

**Q: Are you and Jordi staying in touch? If so, is it the same as your other professional relationships, or does a mentor-mentee aspect remain?**

**CB:** We are still in touch regularly. I visited Jordi in his new position with [African Parks](#) at [Akagera National Park](#) in Rwanda in Jan 2020, and Jordi will be visiting Alaska this summer so I can return the favor. Our relationship has changed and now I see us as peers and friends. I think he is ready to become a mentor too. Jordi has been incorporating emerging GIS and app-based technology into wildlife and habitat management, and has opportunities to expand the geographic scope of his work. When he visits Alaska, we are planning a presentation to share his innovative work with other wildlife managers.

**Q: Is there anything you would like to share with other experienced wildlife professionals about the program, to help them decide if they'd be interested in applying to be a mentor?**

**CB:** You will get more out of it than you expect. It isn't just an altruistic effort to help young professionals. There are more potential mentees than mentors, so by participating you would be giving a young professional a chance to be in the program that could otherwise be left out. It seems like many established professionals underrate their potential to mentor. You likely have a lot more to offer than you realize! This is your chance to maintain an impact long after your career is over. I am now mentoring in the second cycle of the program with another inspiring young professional and plan to continue to participate.

#### Application and matching process

Prospective mentors with 10 years or more experience in a conservation or related field or fields are encouraged to complete a short mentor profile on CoalitionWILD's webpage (<https://coalitionwild.org/mentorship/>) to be considered for the program. Mentors can be any age and at any stage of their career (including retired, taking a break, or just starting something new) so long as they have at least 10 years of experience in conservation or environmentalism. CoalitionWILD uses a thorough and thoughtful process to match pairs based on professional focus, language(s) spoken, regional location, expectations of the program, and with a bit of 'gut feeling', to identify who will likely interact well together. Feedback from both mentors and mentees consistently indicates that participants are very satisfied with the pairing (91% of participants felt their mentor match was excellent).

#### Opportunity to participate

The mentoring program usually receives many more mentee applications than mentor applications. Therefore, mentor applications are accepted year-round, whereas mentee applications are accepted only during a specific time. Mentor applicants meeting the experience requirement and willing to commit to the 12-month program will be notified of their acceptance into the program within a few days of submitting their application. Mentee applications will be accepted May-June 2020. Participants will be notified of their match in July, and the kick-off call will be in late July or early August. You can influence the direction and support the development of emerging leaders in international wildlife management through mentoring. Your experience is needed, and as Casey says, "You will get more out of it than you expect."

**Casey Burns** is the Wildlife and Threatened & Endangered Species Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska, and a member of TWS IWMWG.

**Crista Valentino** is the founder and Director of CoalitionWILD

## TWS International Involvement: Review of Panel Discussion

By Claire Crow      Photos by Claire Crow

IWMWG Chair Melissa Merrick moderated a panel discussion “What Does the Future of TWS International Involvement Look Like?” on Oct 2, 2019 at the TWS annual conference in Reno, Nevada, USA. Panelists were:

**John McDonald (TWS)** - was involved in the original TWS discussions on this topic with John Organ

**Julie Clausen (AFS)** - Past President of AFS, does a lot of international work in Asia, Mexico, and elsewhere  
**Tsuyoshi Yoshida (TWS)** - organized the international Wildlife Management Congress in Japan, currently runs a wildlife management NGO

**Shane Mahoney (TWS)** - IUCN representative through the last 4 world congresses

**Harriet Allen (TWS)** - former NorthWest Section representative to Council, served on ad hoc international involvement committee

**Steve Cook (AFS)** - international work enriched his teaching and gave his students an edge



### Potential models discussed:

Two previous major efforts in Mexico, including offering a \$10 annual membership to Mexican nationals. Complications ranged from difficulty getting addresses for mailouts to legal issues, also differences between northern and southern Mexico, and the international border wall between the USA and Mexico. It could be possible to follow the model of the Canadian Section with Mexico.

Could Mexico have an affiliation where they have their own structure, and are part of TWS through an agreement or other legal device.

Could a model similar to the Mammal Society work?

World Fisheries Congress makes it easier in modern times to build alliances and explore science communication through the World Fisheries Congress. Inclusive, big picture thinking at the ecosystem level, TWS and AFS can collaborate on this, and have a unified voice in sustainability issues.



AFS borrowed the “flyways” concept, creating “swimways”. Alaska already has many existing relationships with other countries, mostly due to managing the flyway at the scale of the wildlife. They could help spread the word.

TWS publications and journals - recruit articles on biodiversity, wildlife trade law, climate, ocean acidification, wild meat harvest. Could The Wildlife Professional list all the conferences and meetings happening internationally? Country profiles in Fisheries magazine with the state of fish and fisheries in a country, 4,000 words, increases relevance. North American Journal of Fisheries - Willey has helped them to recruit articles to show that it's not limited to North America. Be relevant and they will come.

### Questions, considerations:

Are we facilitating work overseas? Doing more outreach? Or both?

What does the international engagement of our members, already in place, look like?

Very few faculty have experience in policy development. Also, funds for policy development have decreased.

We have no formal agreement with many organizations that work all over the world, such as American Bird Conservancy.

With the attrition of wild animal harvesting sportspeople, the US and Canada may become more like Europe. Learning from Germany – in Europe, fishing is increasingly thought of as cruel.

### Where do we go from here?

Pick your battles, be strategic. Focus on building the foundation. Identify the themes from this discussion.

Themes:

**Affiliative Engagement – Partnerships are Key**

**Increased Relevance of TWS Internationally**

**Career & Personal Development Opportunities**

**Education of Wildlife Students**



Photo:  
Excellent discussion at the end of the panel session.

## Symposium: Global Perspectives of Urban Wildlife Management

By Claire Crow      Photos by Melissa Merrick unless otherwise noted

Chris Schell of the TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group opened the symposium, which was co-sponsored by IWMWG and TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group, with highlights from the International Urban Wildlife Management Conference of 2019: emerging themes, tools and challenges in international urban wildlife conservation and management. The conference had over 300 attendees from 7 countries. A strong theme was the connections between the human and wildlife communities in urban areas, and the resulting transdisciplinary nature of managing wildlife. Topics included: how urbanites experience wildlife, communicating at the identity level and the community level, green infrastructure, how to increase biodiversity, how to diversify STEM education and careers, the tangible ecological and environmental impacts of cities, intersectionality and how understanding classism may help you understand how your system works.



Remington Moll presented on specific considerations for wildlife habitat metrics in urban area, and a framework for defining urbanization for wildlife research and the spatial scales at which wildlife respond. Cities vary widely; may have natural or developed islands of habitat (urban agriculture, mountain “sky islands”, designed greenspace, etc.) Anthropogenic noise impacts habitat suitability and use. There are many different ways to measure; this makes replication, interpretation and comparison difficult. A Web of Science literature search of Urban Wildlife publications showed considerable variation in what was measured (structural components, agents, abiotic components), how it was measured (singular or composite), and where and when measurements were made (spatial and temporal scales).



Maria-Vitoria Mazzamuto shared her work managing invasive squirrels in urban parks in Italy. While trapping two introduced squirrel species in urban parks for the benefit of the native Eurasian red squirrel, it became apparent that the public enjoyed feeding the squirrels and were opposed to lethal control methods. As the introduced species were more bold in the presence of humans, the local people were more familiar with the than the native squirrel. Maria-Vitoria tested a trap-and-sterilize program with release in isolated parks, but it was expensive and labor-intensive. She started a campaign to increase the visibility of the native Eurasian red squirrel, by installing feeders and via interpretive messaging such as “the red squirrel is our squirrel”. The project was delayed by lawsuits from animal rights supporters. An important lesson learned was to communicate your intentions and the value of your work to the local community prior to beginning your work. Best practice is a communication strategy that clearly states your objectives, shares robust data, and involves community members (from school children activities to meetings with stakeholders).



**“There is a social justice aspect to urban wildlife management. For example, how is it that some people are so vulnerable to being eaten by tigers?” - Rekha Warriar**



Rekha Warriar's presentation questioned whether only places "unsullied by human activities" are worth protecting for wildlife; she discussed examples from India and the US. Tigers and Asiatic lions use areas that are highly modified by humans. In India, 5% of the land is protected; although tigers do use the protected areas, they travel through anthropogenic areas to access them. Community tolerance of tigers is reduced by tiger-induced human deaths and by crop degradation. Rekha's study area is likely to soon be urbanized with sprawling subsistence agriculture (sugar cane). Human-tiger contact is most likely to happen in the winter. There are large areas where humans and tigers overlap with no conflict.



Tiffany Sprague looked at the sustainability of a mammal movement corridor near Phoenix, AZ. A citizen science project using camera traps showed that species richness was similar across the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Mule deer telemetry showed that no female deer used the area, five male deer crossed the road, and deer avoid the first few hundred meters of trails. Best practice is to network with communities and communicate as people move into new developments.



Jason Lombardi presented on the impacts of land cover change (1987-2050) on wild felids in the Rio Grande Delta and vicinity. Texas land is privately-owned to a very high degree (97%). Fragmentation by cities, large private lands, and protected areas has negative impacts. There are fewer than 80 ocelots today, in 2 isolated populations. The Rio Grande Delta may not hold enough woody cover patches to maintain or enhance population viability over the next 35 years. Woody cover has increased since 1987, but each scenario forecasts future loss and fragmentation of woody cover. Might Rio Grande corridors be, in reality, an ecological trap?



Photo by Claire Crow

Niamh Quinn talked about the pathways of rodenticide exposure in urban wildlife in California. As urbanites have increased home gardening for small-scale food production, commensal rodents have increased in density. Trap-neuter-release programs feed feral cats, reducing the level of rodent control. Quinn found that 97% of coyotes were exposed to anticoagulant rodenticide, and that most of those were secondary exposures from commensal rodents. Quinn attributes much of the exposure to off-label use. Future work will focus on isotopical labels on bait to try to trace the pathways through the food chain, sublethal impacts to coyotes, and developing best management practices for pest management that minimize the use of rodenticides.



Tsuyoshi Yoshida presented on urban wildlife management conflicts in Sapporo, Japan. Over 90.7% of Japanese people live in cities, and 75% of Japan's land is mountains. 68.5% of land cover is forest. So there is a lot of wildlife, and a lot of people, thus lots of conflict. Species introduced as pets include raccoons, and the red-eared slider which is estimated to exceed the population of the endemic turtle by 8 times. Sika deer winter in the parks and move into Sapporo in summer. Hunters are an endangered species in Japan: less than 0.15% of people hunt, and 63% of hunters are older than 60. The age for a hunting license was reduced, with no change in number of younger hunters. Strategies are trap/harvest management, stakeholder involvement and a multispecies approach.

Overall, the symposium showed that human cultural values must be addressed in order to manage urban wildlife in Italy, India, Japan and the US, and we can learn from one another's experiences trying to do so.

## IWMWG Participates in ICCB Conference in Malaysia

By Melissa Merrick      Photos by Melissa Merrick

Wildlife exists in landscapes that are increasingly impacted by humans, so more and more, conservation actions depend upon buy-in and collaboration from local communities to achieve lasting success.

Around the world, examples abound of innovative, community-based education and conservation initiatives that are redefining our definition of wildlife and landscape conservation - from protected areas void of humans to models of informed coexistence.

This theme of community-centered wildlife conservation and management was the focus of a July symposium held at the 2019 International Congress for Conservation Biology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Titled “**Grassroots community engagement: a critical tool for global wildlife conservation**” the symposium was sponsored by IWMWG with support from TWS Council and the Future of International Involvement ad hoc committee. It marked the first time TWS has been involved with the ICCB and provided an exploration into new avenues for international involvement and engagement by TWS.

The symposium highlighted examples of wildlife conservation programs in Asia in which community participation and engagement have been essential elements in the programs’ success. Five speakers discussed effective initiatives that have furthered the protection of snow leopards, sun bears and native, threatened mammals of Sumatra and Taiwan, such as Sumatran rhinos, Asian elephants and Taiwanese pangolins. Invited speakers represented the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) China, Panthera, ShanShui Conservation Center, Istituto Oikos Myanmar, Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL), and National Chung Hsing University of Taiwan.



Speaker Irham Hudaya Yunardi, from Forum Konservasi Leuser, presented multidisciplinary community engagement approaches that have aided in the conservation of the Leuser Ecosystem of Sumatra. Efforts include community-based restoration, allowing harvest for income from non-timber forest products such as wild honey, empowering local communities with legal rights, and providing scholarships for undergraduate research.



Lorenzo Gaffi, from Istituto Oikos Myanmar, shared how community engagement has been a key factor for the conservation of sun bears in Myanmar, where local villagers are the main actors of conservation. Community-based forestry encourages deep ownership and a participatory culture in natural resource protection, Gaffi said. Community guardian groups patrol boundaries and strengthen relationships between local villagers and authorities. They also support alternative livelihoods by providing small loans and employment as conservation technicians — efforts that have converted poachers into conservationists.



Peiyun Li, of the ShanShui Conservation Center, discussed how long-term, community-based wildlife monitoring has led to snow leopard conservation in the Sanjiangyuan region of China. Her research shows that although time-intensive, community-based conservation efforts were more cost-effective in the long run. They were also an effective tool for introducing conservation methods and building local capacity. Fair, equitable community involvement was the most important factor in the success of any conservation actions, including salaried rangers, host-family experiences, education and training.



Xiaoxing Bian, of the WCS West China Program, described how community-centered partnerships pastoralist communities coexist with snow leopards in northern Tibet, where livestock depredations are high and the government compensates communities for their losses. By employing pastoralists as rangers in charge of monitoring camera traps and providing conservation performance payments, communities have autonomy to develop novel solutions independently. Effective solutions include mannequins, fencing, lights and a phone app for wildlife distribution and biodiversity monitoring.



TWS and IWMWG member Hsiang Ling Chen, of National Chung Hsing University of Taiwan, discussed how in Yangmingshan National Park, Taiwan, free-roaming dogs are supported by local communities with food subsidies, but these dogs have negative impacts on native mammals. Dr. Chen's team collected occupancy and demographic data from camera traps to simultaneously document dog-wildlife interactions as well as low survivorship of feral dogs. The team was able to change public opinion about the welfare of feral dogs through a public education campaign, which brought about changes in animal shelter practices and improved responsible pet ownership in the communities surrounding the national park.



## IWMWG-sponsored Symposium: Animals Without Borders

Animals without Borders: Conservation, Economics, and Spatial Subsidies of Transboundary Migratory Species, organized by Brady Mattsson and Jonathan Derbridge. Symposium took place Oct 2, 2019 at the TWS Conference in Reno, NV, USA.

Using Spatial Subsidies Framework for Conservation of Transboundary Ecosystem Services from Migratory Species (Ta-ken Huang et al)

Quantifying Ecosystem Services and Spatial Subsidies from Migratory Monarch Butterflies across Multiple Scales and Countries in North America (Jay Diffendorfer et al)

Ecosystem Service Flows from a Migratory Species: Spatial Subsidies of the Northern Pintail (Brady J Mattsson et al)

Land Tenure and Ecosystem Services of Migratory Bats in Mexico and the US: Who Pays Whom (Ta-Ken Huang et al)

Equity, Environmental Justice, and Migratory Species Conservation across International Borders (Laura Lopez-Hoffman et al)



*Ta-Ken Huang presenting on ecosystem services of migratory bats.  
Photo by Claire Crow.*

## Easy Ways to Help Your Working Group and Your Career

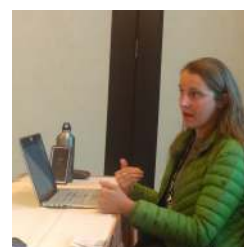
**By Claire Crow**

An obvious way to become more involved in IWMWG is to run for an officer position, and there's an upcoming election for Secretary-Treasurer and Chair-Elect. However, there are also some simpler ways to support the working group that can be just as beneficial to your career. For example, one year I was at the annual conference, and an IWMWG-invited speaker needed a ride from their hotel to the conference venue. I volunteered to pick them up and get them to the room in time for their presentation. Voila, I had a new contact and potential collaborator. Another year, a panelist had something shipped to them at their lodging, but it did not arrive until the day after they left town. However, I was staying for the full conference, so I picked up the delivery for them and got it to them at a later date. How about some things that you can do from home? Of course, you could always write an article for this newsletter (see page 7 for how to win a book for doing just that). If you are interested in co-editing this newsletter, that would allow for more issues to come out per year. A less time-consuming project would be to update the WG's accomplishments document. If you enjoy drawing, consider designing a sticker for the WG - we are interested in making a new sticker each year (contact the editor at [corvid.feat@gmail.com](mailto:corvid.feat@gmail.com) for design parameters). If you're into photography, take some wildlife or landscape shots and submit them to this newsletter. If you have a great idea for a symposium topic, presenter, or activity that the WG could do, send it in as a suggestion to any of the officers (contact info is on the last page of this newsletter). Kira Hefty piloted our WG's international co-mentoring program Wildlifers Without Borders. She picked up an idea originally contributed by now-retired WG member Jeannie Greven, and made it real. The program will soon be looking for participants for its second year; the co-mentoring is short-term and focused on the TWS annual conference. The commitment is minor compared to the benefits. Whatever values you find in international wildlife work, you can increase your involvement with a small investment of time and energy into the IWMWG.



## Photos from IWMWG Business Meeting

By Claire Crow





IWMWG officers (from left)  
 Chair-elect Scott Brainerd  
 Chair Melissa Merrick  
 Past Chair Jonathan Derbridge  
 Secretary-Treasurer Allie Burnett

#### Important upcoming deadlines:

**March 13** Deadline for proposals for workshops, symposia and panel discussions. TWS 27th Annual Conference. Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2020. <https://twsconference.org>

**April 17** Deadline for abstracts. TWS 27th Annual Conference. Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2020. <https://twsconference.org>

**April 19** Deadline for abstracts. 69th Wildlife Disease Association & European WDA Joint International Conference. Cuenca, Spain. Aug 30—Sept 2, 2020. Includes all aspects of wildlife health. <https://www.cuenca2020.com/CUENCA2020>

#### Upcoming events:

**July 1-3** LACA 2020 Conservation Latin America Congress. Puebla, Puebla, Mexico. Submissions and presentations can be in either Spanish or English. <https://www.laca-scb.org/laca2020>

**August 30—Sept 2** 69th Wildlife Disease Association and European WDA Joint international Conference. Cuenca, Spain. Includes all aspects of wildlife health. <https://www.cuenca2020.com/CUENCA2020>

**Sept 27 - Oct 1** TWS 27th Annual Conference. Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2020. <https://twsconference.org>

Membership in the TWS IWMWG includes a subscription to the *Passport* (the working group's newsletter) and opportunities to collaborate on international wildlife management-related topics. You can join or renew your membership by logging in to The Wildlife Society portal and adding the IWMWG to your annual membership; the cost is \$10.

Current TWS Members can join by:

1. Going to <http://wildlife.force.com/>
2. Enter your email address on file and password
3. Click on 'add memberships' on the bottom left
4. Scroll down to 'Working Group Dues' and select "International Wildlife Management Working Group"
5. Check out by entering your payment information

THE WILDLIFE  
SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
WORKING GROUP

Editor: Claire Crow  
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*I hope you enjoy your Passport.  
Please send me your comments  
and suggestions for future issues!*

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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:** Melissa Merrick (mmerrick@email.arizona.edu)

**Chair-elect:** Scott Brainerd (scott.brainerd@inn.no)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Allie Burnett (aburnett93@email.arizona.edu)

**Past Chair:** Jonathan Derbridge (derbridge@email.arizona.edu)