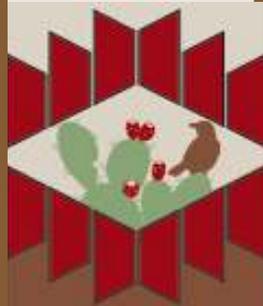


# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

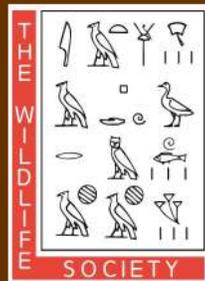
State News

International News

Tribal News

Student News

Council News



## Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
62	57	103	1	53

## President's Message

### James Cain - 2021 President SW Section of The Wildlife Society

I am pleased to write my second message as the current president of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society. Hopefully, you have all had a productive year so far and that you managed to find the time to get out in the field or where ever it is that you enjoy.



At the time of writing, the virtual TWS Annual Conference is off to a great start. This year's national TWS conference will undoubtedly be as successful as last year's first virtual conference. Hopefully, a lot of you have been able to find the time to attend some of the numerous technical sessions and workshops. Currently, TWS is planning for an in-person meeting in Spokane, Washington in 2022. As of now, the Arizona Chapter has plans to host the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters using a virtual format 3 – 5 February, while the Texas Chapter is planning an in-person meeting 24 – 26 February in Marble Falls, Texas. With any luck conditions will remain conducive to holding in-person meetings this coming winter and into the following year. In spite of the relative success of the virtual format for TWS conferences, I am looking forward to getting back to in person meetings and conferences.

If you are a graduate student, see the announcement in this newsletter on the Southwest Section Graduate Student Scholarship. Applications are due 15 December. Also, if you are a recently graduated student and need assistance with the fees associated with your application for Associate Wildlife Biologist certification, send me an email and we can discuss the application process for fee assistance through the Southwest Section.

As a final note, **Misty Sumner** is looking to stepdown from her role as newsletter editor after this year. If you have any interest in helping out with the newsletter please send me an email: [jwcain@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwcain@nmsu.edu). Also, keep an eye out for the SW Section election information that will arrive via email later this year.

—James Cain

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2

## In this Issue

### Table of Contents

#### From the Board

President's Message	1
Southwest Section Tracks – SW Section Rep's message	3

#### International

Monitoring Carnivore Populations in Tamaulipas	6
--	---

#### Student News

SWS TWS Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applicants	10
Competition Among Sceloporus	13

#### Section News and Information

SWS Board & Committee Chairs	16
Join! Membership Form	17

Thank you to those that contributed to this newsletter: **James Cain, Jim Ramakka**, Erin Westeen, José Martinzes-Fonseca, and Leroy Soria Diaz.

We need photos and/or articles from YOU!

Please contribute to our next newsletter. Consider submitting articles or photos on work related adventures, conservation happenings, or any topics of interest to Southwest Section members. If you're interested in contributing but don't know what to write, give us a call!

Deadline for the Spring newsletter articles is **March 1**.

Submit all photos and articles to your newsletter editors.



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

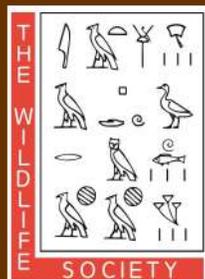
State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

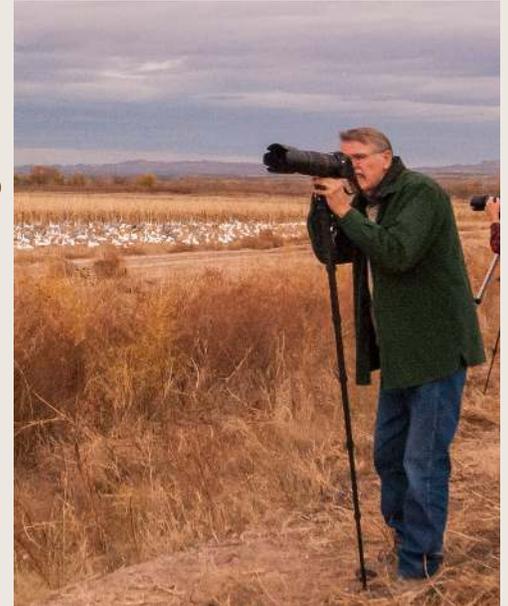
Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Southwest Section Tracks

### Jim Ramakka - Southwest Section Representative To Council

The past year and half have been particularly tumultuous for our nation and for The Wildlife Society. I believe the membership can be proud of the way TWS staff responded to the need to pivot from in-person to virtual annual meetings. The conservative budgeting approach developed over the past several years under the leadership of Past-Presidents Darren Miller and Gary White and President Carol Chambers, and the business acumen and advice of CEO Ed Thompson, enabled us to avoid what could have been a financial crisis. Our membership has not declined as



feared it might be a consequence of the pandemic and economic slowdown and Council has continued addressing the business of our professional society. TWS staff and members of the Conservation Affairs Network have continued to work to influence national policy on wildlife related issues.

Council has held two Special Meetings since my last column. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Council met to review and approve a proposed 2022 Operations Plan and associated a 2022 Budget of \$2.295 million for the coming year. Revisions to the existing Energy Development and Invasive Species standing Position Statements were discussed and approved and the Positions Statements Committee was tasked with examining the feasibility of drafting addition position or issue statements on the use of NEPA Categorical Exclusions and another on Fire Management. The proposed TWS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan was also reviewed, discussed, and approved.

At the end of the June meeting, CEO Ed Thompson announced his plans to retire on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Ed played a key role in reshaping TWS into a modern professional society. He was instrumental in employing solid business and planning practices. Everyone on Council expressed their gratitude for Ed's outstanding efforts while wishing him a happy retirement.



#### From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

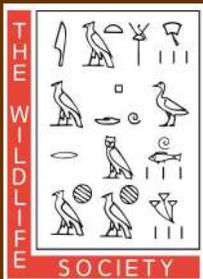
State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Southwest Section Tracks

### Jim Ramakka - Southwest Section Representative To Council

A search committee was formed to seek a qualified replacement. A total of 21 individuals applied for the position. The applicants were individually scored on 25 factors and 10 required elements. The top 10 highest scoring applicants were asked to respond to 11 substantive questions in first-round interviews during the last week of August. In early September, the top 3 candidates will undergo two more interviews to assess their responses to specific questions. The plan is to have a final selection made and a new CEO hired before the start of our Annual Meeting in November. Until then, as allowed by TWS By Laws, President **Carol Chambers** will serve as Acting CEO beginning September 1.

A second Special Council Meeting was held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to address 3 items: establishing the date for the Fall Regular Council Meeting, electing an Interim Corporate Secretary (a position to be held until selection of a new CEO), and amending financial procedures related to a proposed graduate policy fellowship. The Fall Council Meeting will be a virtual meeting held October 24 -25 with portions continued into the TWS Annual Conference. President-elect Gordon Batcheller was elected Interim Corporate Secretary. Finally, Council voted to amend a prior motion to adjust the allocation of pending donated funds to allow a policy fellowship to begin in 2022.

I hope you will all attend our virtual 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in November. The start of TWS Annual Conferences 27 years ago marked a significant milestone in our organization's evolution into a modern professional society. That process of evolution continues to this day as we seek ways to welcome everyone with an interest in the scientific management and conservation of wildlife resources.



Animas River Valley in New Mexico.

Photo courtesy Jim Ramakka.



#### From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Southwest Section Tracks

### Jim Ramakka - Southwest Section Representative To Council

The work of the wildlife profession has expanded beyond game species to include a wide variety of taxa and management issues and problems.

The approval of a Canadian Section and Council support for the formation of a Chapter in Mexico and Student Chapter in Norway, reflect progress toward achieving the TWS goal of representing all wildlife professionals across the globe.

We wildlifers are a unique group of professionals. As Jack Ward Thomas often emphasized, our work is more than a job. It is a true calling, a vocation. He also firmly believed, "The Wildlife Society gives voice and form and definition to our profession." (Thomas 1985). That statement is as true today as it has been for decades. Which is why it has been an honor to serve as the Southwest Section TWS Council Representative for the last 3 yrs. It is also why I am delighted that my good friend, **Kathy Granillo**, will assume that role at end of this this year's Fall Council Meeting. Kathy brings a wealth of up-to-date experience and knowledge that will be a great asset to an already outstanding Council. She will serve us well.

I look forward to seeing many of you again in-person in 2022.

—Jim Ramakka, CWB®



Chipping Sparrow

Photo courtesy Jim Ramakka



#### From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

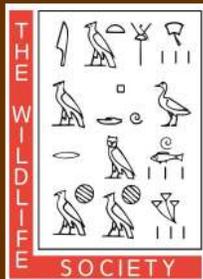
State News

International News

Tribal News

Student Chapters

Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## International

### Leroy Soria Diaz—Profesor Investigador

Es Doctor en Ciencias Agropecuarias y Recursos Naturales. Actualmente es investigador del Instituto de Ecología Aplicada de la Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas. Es profesor en la Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias, la Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, el Posgrado en Ecología y Manejo de Recursos Naturales, y es miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI CONACYT).



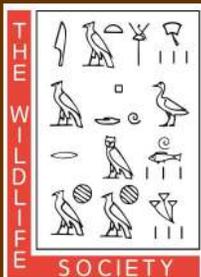
*Colocación de trampas cámara*  
Foto cortesía de Leroy Soria Díaz.

El Instituto de Ecología Aplicada (IEA) de la Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT), se localiza en la capital tamaulipeca de Ciudad Victoria. En este Instituto se tiene como objetivos: 1) generar conocimiento para la conservación y manejo sustentable de los ecosistemas a través de programas, líneas y proyectos de investigación vinculados al desarrollo regional, 2) transferir los productos de investigación a los usuarios mediante la extensión, difusión y capacitación, 3) aplicar el conocimiento generado a través de la extensión, la vinculación y la práctica, y 4) formar recursos humanos de alto nivel capaces de generar, transferir y aplicar conocimientos para la conservación y manejo sustentable de los recursos naturales.

Dentro de mis principales tareas al estar adscrito al IEA-UAT, es el de realizar investigación relacionada con la ecología, distribución y el manejo de la fauna silvestre. Principalmente me enfoco a especies de carnívoros grandes (mamíferos) como jaguar (*Panthera onca*), oso negro (*Ursus americanus*) y puma (*Puma concolor*), sin dejar de lado a felinos de tamaño mediano como el yagouarundi (*Puma yagouarundi*), el ocelote (*Leopardus pardalis*) y el tigrillo (*Leopardus wiedii*). La razón de estudiar a todas estas especies es, porque la gran mayoría de ellas encuentran en peligro de extinción en México y todas cumplen roles importantes en el ecosistema como especies clave, indicadoras, bandera, sombrilla o son reguladoras dentro de la cadena trófica. El estado de Tamaulipas es uno de los pocos estados que tiene frontera con Estados Unidos y forma parte de la Sierra Madre Oriental,



From the Board  
Southwest Section  
National News  
State News  
International News  
Tribal News  
Student Chapters  
Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## International

### Leroy Soria Diaz—Profesor Investigador

y es también donde se encuentra la presencia de los 6 felinos que se distribuyen en México, incluido el oso negro que, aunque no es un felino, es al carnívoro de mayor tamaño que tenemos en México.

Los estudios de ecología y distribución de estos carnívoros son relevantes para el Estado de Tamaulipas, principalmente para conocer cuál es el estado de sus poblaciones y, por otro lado, saber que especies podemos compartir en la frontera con Estados Unidos.

La herramienta que utilizo para monitorear a estas especies son las trampas-cámara, y desde el 2014 hasta la fecha, he monitoreado a estas especies en la reserva de la Biósfera El Cielo, Tamaulipas, y comenzamos a expandir nuestros estudios a la frontera con EUA. Los resultados más importantes de estas investigaciones los hemos publicado en revistas científicas nacionales e internacionales y donde destacamos que en general las poblaciones de estos carnívoros son estables en la reserva y que tienen una buena repartición de sus recursos tiempo, espacio y alimento. También hemos impartido cursos de educación ambiental en escuelas (primaria, secundaria y bachillerato) en los diferentes ejidos de la reserva y en la capital Ciudad Victoria, con el objetivo de educar y concientizar a las personas sobre la conservación de estas especies en los ecosistemas.



Jaguar de la reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo.

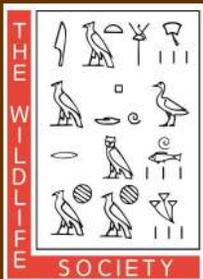
Foto cortesía de Leroy Soria Díaz.

Es importante mencionar, que el desarrollo de las investigaciones se realiza con el apoyo y colaboración de otras instituciones como; la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL), La comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), el Programa Federal para el Apoyo Profesional Docente (PRODEP) y El Cielo Gómez Farías A.C.

Como integrante del IEA-UAT estamos comprometidos en seguir trabajando con estas especies y generar información relevante que ayude a conservar a todas estas especies y, sobre todo, estamos comprometidos a trabajar en el conflicto que hay entre los carnívoros y ganaderos, para tratar de establecer una convivencia entre ambos.



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## International

### Leroy Soria Diaz—Profesor Investigador

The Institute of Applied Ecology (IEA) of the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas (UAT) is located in the Tamaulipas capital of Ciudad Victoria. The objectives of this Institute are to: 1) generate knowledge for the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems through research programs and projects linked to regional development, 2) transfer research products to users through extension, dissemination and training, 3) apply the knowledge generated through extension, linkage and practice, and 4) train high-level human resources capable of generating, transferring and applying knowledge for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.



*Colocación de trampas cámara*  
Foto cortesía de Leroy Soria Díaz.

Among my main tasks, with IAE-UAT, is to carry out research related to the ecology, distribution and management of wildlife. I mainly focus on species of large carnivores (mammals) such as jaguar (*Panthera onca*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and puma (*Puma concolor*), without neglecting medium-sized felines such as jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) and margay (*Leopardus wiedii*). The reason for studying all these species is because the vast majority of them are in danger of extinction in Mexico. All play important roles in the ecosystem as key species, indicator, flag, umbrella or are regulators within the trophic chain. The state of Tamaulipas is one of the few states that borders the United States and is part of the Sierra Madre Oriental. It is where the presence of all six felines that are distributed in Mexico are found. The largest carnivore that we have in Mexico, the black bear, also occurs in Tamaulipas.

Ecology and distribution studies of these carnivores are relevant to the State of Tamaulipas, mainly to know the status of their populations and, to know what species we share on the border with the United States. I used camera traps to monitor these species and from 2014 to date in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Tamaulipas. We began



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## International

### Leroy Soria Diaz—Research Professor

to expand our studies to the border with the United States. We have published the most important results of these investigations in national and international scientific journals. We emphasize that in general the populations of these carnivores are stable in the reserve and that they have a good distribution of their resources, time, space and food. We taught environmental education courses in schools (primary, secondary and high school) in the different villages of the reserve and in the capital Ciudad Victoria with the aim of educating and raising awareness about the conservation of these species in ecosystems.



Jaguar de la reserva de la Biosfera El Cielo.

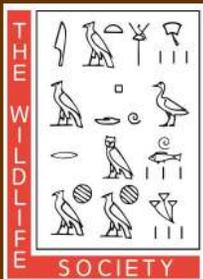
Foto cortesía de Leroy Soria Díaz.

It is important to mention that the research is carried out with the support and collaboration of other institutions such as; the "Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL), La comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), el Programa Federal para el Apoyo Profesional Docente (PRODEP) and El Cielo Gómez Farías A.C".

As a member of the IEA-UAT we are committed to continue working with these species and generate relevant information that helps to conserve all these species and, above all, we are committed to working on the conflict between carnivores and humans, to try to establish a coexistence between the two.



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Student News

### **SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications:**

The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society is soliciting applications for the \$500 Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship. This scholarship will be presented at either the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting of the New Mexico and Arizona Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society or the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Please submit nominations electronically by **15 December 2021** to [jwcain@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwcain@nmsu.edu)

### **Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship**

#### **Description:**

The Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship is an award in the amount of \$500 that is given annually to a graduate student who is currently enrolled in a natural resource-oriented program at a college or university in Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas and is studying wildlife. Wildlife includes all fauna and habitat components, excluding fisheries-related studies. Applicants should have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Women, members of minorities, or students who are the first in their family to attend graduate school are especially encouraged to apply. The Southwest Section's Geospatial Advisory Committee encourages exchange of information regarding the application of geospatial technology to wildlife research. In support of the work of this committee, students who are extensively utilizing geospatial data, including satellite imagery or other products of remote sensing technology, and/or generating their own geospatial products through the use of drones, are also encouraged to apply. Incorporation of these technologies in an applicant's graduate research is NOT required; applicants not using these technologies should still apply.

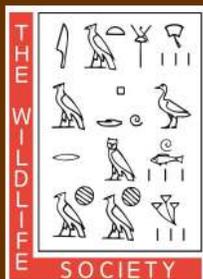


Sunset on La Plata Mountains.

Photo courtesy Jim Ramakka.



From the Board  
Southwest Section  
National News  
State News  
International News  
Tribal News  
**Student Chapters**  
Council News



#### **Current Members**

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Student News

### SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications:

#### Application Format:

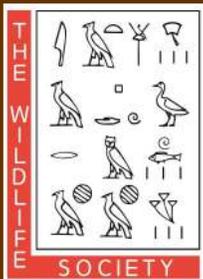
The application package should be addressed to the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society Board and consists of a cover letter and current resume. The cover letter should be no longer than one page, and the resume no longer than two pages. Please use standard one inch margins and size 12 font. The application package should contain the following information:

In their **cover letter**, applicants should briefly describe their graduate research project, state their academic and professional goals, and include details on past and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in the Southwestern United States, including Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and elsewhere. Applicants should also provide information on relevant leadership experience, either through academic or professional experiences or extracurricular activities. Finally, applicants must provide a brief statement of financial need, including personal indebtedness related to education, current scholarships, grants or assistantships, and whether the applicant has previously received the Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship.

**Resumes** should contain detailed information on educational experience including: field of study; college or university where currently enrolled and those previously attended; expected date of completion; completed relevant coursework; and cumulative grade point average. Additional information on honors, awards, and/or scholarships previously received is also appropriate. Resumes should also include information on professional experience, whether paid or volunteer, including employers, locations, time periods, and brief descriptions of work responsibilities.



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Student News

### **SWS TWS Southwestern Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship Call for Applications:**

#### **Scholarship Criteria:**

The Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society Board reviews applications and determines awardees through a ranked review process based on the following criteria:

Current cumulative grade point average and related educational experience and/or achievements receive the highest consideration during the review process.

Contribution(s) to the field, especially current and anticipated future contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in states within the Southwest Section, receive secondary consideration.

Demonstrated leadership through professional and/or academic experiences is also given consideration during the review process, as is the inclusion of geospatial data and/or technology in a student's graduate research project.

Demonstrated financial need and, in the interest of recognizing students from all states in the Southwest Section, the state of the prior year's scholarship recipient, are considered as final determinative factors to distinguish among applicants who may otherwise receive equal rankings during the review process.

#### **Application Submittals:**

Applications for the SWS of TWS Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship should be submitted electronically to: James Cain, President of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society at [jwcain@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwcain@nmsu.edu)

Please write Southwestern Wildlife Student Scholarship in the subject line and include the submittal package as one email attachment (pdf is preferred) using the following naming format:

Applicant Name\_SWSTWS\_SWScholarship\_Year

Example: FidelHernandez\_SWSTWS\_SWScholarship\_2020



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### **Current Members**

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Student News

### Erin Westeen - UC Berkeley PhD Candidate

My name is Erin Westeen and I am a PhD candidate at UC Berkeley. I got my bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Michigan, where I worked in the Museum of Zoology and developed my love for wildlife. When deciding on a topic for my graduate studies, I decided to focus on the spiny lizards (genus *Sceloporus*) that I had grown up catching and observing.

For my dissertation I wanted to work in places where many species of spiny lizards can be found in the same place so I could understand how closely related species partition habitat space to avoid competition. *Sceloporus* hotspots are mostly in Central America, but the Madrean Sky Islands in Arizona and New Mexico offer enclaves of Madrean pine-oak woodlands that host several species of spiny lizards. The Chiricahua Mountains are some of the largest in this mountain range; I had the opportunity to visit this biodiverse area while interning for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, so I decided to conduct a study on *Sceloporus* habitat use and niche partitioning there.

With José Martínez-Fonseca, we conducted surveys along an elevation gradient to document species' resource use in sympatry. Each site in our study has a unique combination of species, so we can also ask questions about how their habitat use may change in the presence of different competitors. For each lizard observed we recorded perch height, width and type, activity time, substrate temperature and body temperature. We caught over 300 lizards and found strong evidence for structural niche partitioning: the species use different substrates as perches.

Erin Westeen holds four species of *Sceloporus* that can be found in the Chiricahua Mtns., AZ. Left to right: Clark's spiny lizard, Yarrow's spiny lizard, striped plateau lizard, Slevin's bunchgrass lizard.



Photo courtesy José Martínez-Fonseca.

- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



#### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News

## Student News

### Erin Westeen - UC Berkeley PhD Candidate

The striped plateau lizard (*S. virgatus*) is largely terrestrial, Yarrow's Spiny Lizard (*S. jarrovi*) is predominantly saxicolous, or rock-dwelling, Clark's Spiny Lizard (*S. clarkii*) is strongly arboreal, and Slevin's bunchgrass lizard (*S. slevini*) relies on bunchgrass clumps at high elevation. Though each of these species have been studied independently, ours is the first to directly compare their resource use.

We found little evidence for temporal or thermal niche partitioning, with the exception being the bunchgrass lizard which has the narrowest niche breadth in both axes. Because we recorded every *Sceloporus* lizard we saw within our transects, our counts approximate relative abundance (noting that the species may have different detection probabilities). We initially thought that Clark's, the largest lizard of the bunch, would be the dominant competitor. However, we saw very few Clark's lizards; previous genetic work suggests that *S. jarrovi* may exclude Clark's from high elevations, and our work corroborates this. Further, Yarrow's lizards did not change their habitat use in the presence of Clark's, suggesting they are largely unaffected by them. To truly understand how these species influence each other, we need to study them both where they co-occur and where they do not.



Though the plateau and bunchgrass lizards do not typically co-occur in the Chiricahuas, we found three striped plateau lizards at high elevation in bunchgrass lizard habitat.

A gravid female bunchgrass lizard (*S. slevini*) at Barfoot Park in the Chiricahua Mountains. This individual was marked for our study.

Photo courtesy José Martínez-Fonseca



### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60

# Southwest Section Newsletter

Fall 2021 - Vol. 12 Issue #2



## Student News

### Erin Westeen - UC Berkeley PhD Candidate

They have similar habitat preferences and are similar morphologically, but the plateau lizard is more generalist. We are conducting genetic work to examine whether the plateau lizards were simply transplants from another part of their range lower in the mountains or if they are establishing a high-elevation population. We don't know what this could mean for the bunchgrass lizard, which is much more specialized.

Future projects will use DNA metabarcoding to analyze the diets of these four species and look for evidence of dietary niche partitioning. We are also conducting a comparative landscape genetics project to look at how niche breadth may or may not predict genetic structuring across the landscape (i.e. are generalist species also more genetically connected within and between the Madrean Sky Islands?).

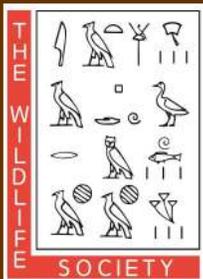
Understanding the habitat preferences of these species will be important as climate change is exacerbated. The Chiricahua Mountains act as a refuge for these species, as none of them are adapted to the surrounding desert. These mountains also represent the northernmost extent of their range for all species but Clark's spiny lizards. We hope our work can inform how species may respond to changing climates and the novel species interactions that may result from shifting ranges.



José Martínez-Fonseca tries to catch a Clark's spiny lizard by climbing a tree, José is a PhD student at NAU and board member of AZ TWS.

Photo courtesy Erin Westeen.

- From the Board
- Southwest Section
- National News
- State News
- International News
- Tribal News
- Student Chapters
- Council News



### Current Members

AZ	NM	TX	Int	Oth
64	73	101	1	60



# Southwest Section News



From the Board

Southwest Section

National News

State News

International News

Tribal News

Student News

Council News

## SWS Board & Committee Chairs

### Current Board

President: **James Cain** [jwcain@nmsu.edu](mailto:jwcain@nmsu.edu) 575-646-3382

President-Elect: **Whitney Gann** [whitney.gann@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:whitney.gann@tpwd.texas.gov)  
830-676-3413

Past President: **Fidel Hernandez** [fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu](mailto:fidel.hernandez@tamuk.edu) 361-593-3926

Secretary: **Masa Ohnishi** [masahiro.ohnishi@tamuk.edu](mailto:masahiro.ohnishi@tamuk.edu)

Treasurer: **Erika Nowak** [Erika.Nowak@nau.edu](mailto:Erika.Nowak@nau.edu) 928-523-7760

### Southwest Section Representative to TWS Council

**James Ramakka** [j\\_ramakka@msn.com](mailto:j_ramakka@msn.com) (505) 486-2746

( \* note the underscore after j in email address:  
[j\\_ramakka@msn.com](mailto:j_ramakka@msn.com) )

### Active Committees

Conservation Affairs:

**Romey Swanson** [romeyswanson@gmail.com](mailto:romeyswanson@gmail.com) 512-667-8124

Geospacial Advisory Committee:

**Leland Pierce** [leland.pierce@state.nm.us](mailto:leland.pierce@state.nm.us) 505-476-8094  
& **Ginny Seamster** [virginia.seamster@state.nm.us](mailto:virginia.seamster@state.nm.us) 505-476-8111

Newsletter:

**Jamie Killian** [7race13@gmail.com](mailto:7race13@gmail.com) 830-480-9043  
& **Misty Sumner** [msmuledeer@gmail.com](mailto:msmuledeer@gmail.com) 254-702-1869

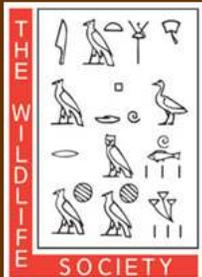
Women of Wildlife Committee:

**Is now under TWS' Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group (EGDWG)**

**Don Yasuda Chair** [dyasudaTWS@gmail.com](mailto:dyasudaTWS@gmail.com)

Women of Wildlife Committee & EGDWG Liason

**Kathy Granillo** [kgbirder55@gmail.com](mailto:kgbirder55@gmail.com) 505-864-4021



# Southwest Section News



From the Board

[Southwest Section](#)

[National News](#)

[State News](#)

[International News](#)

[Tribal News](#)

[Student News](#)

[Council News](#)



## Membership Application

Membership Fee \$5.00

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name  
Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address Phone

Member Type (Please circle one): Student Regular Retired

Please include this form with your payment and mail to:

**Erika Nowak, Treasurer, Southwest Section of TWS, USGS  
Southwest Biol Ctr Box 5614 Flagstaff AZ 86011**

### Membership benefits for the Southwest Section TWS

- SWS TWS Newsletter
- Scholarship opportunities
- Section-level meetings and conferences
- Strengthen your connections to national TWS
- Peer connections through Listserv and [Facebook](#)
- Website information at <http://wildlife.org/sw-section/about/>



#### Current Members

AZ NM TX Int Oth  
62 57 103 1 53