

# Monthly Newsletter

August 2024

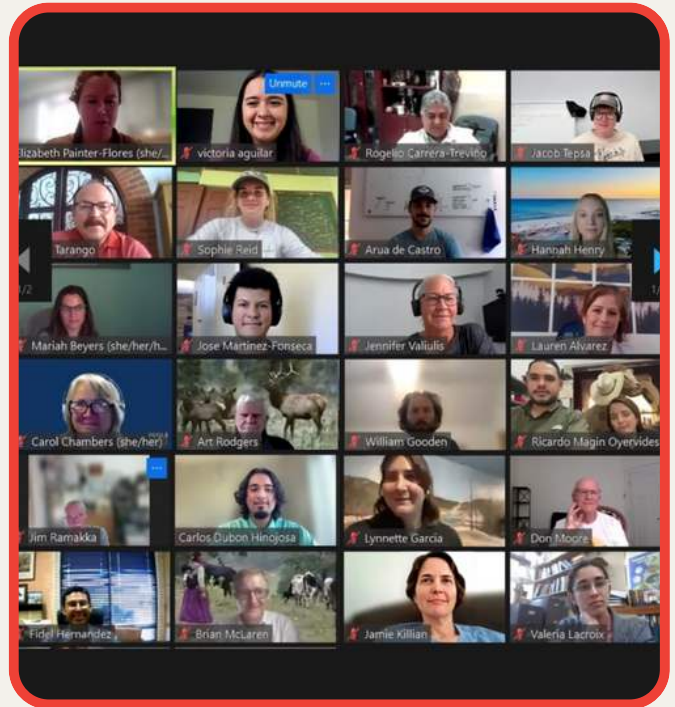
¡SALUDOS A TODAS Y TODOS!

## A Success!



We are so grateful for the amazing attendance of our first LACWG meeting on June 17th! We had a fantastic breadth of individuals represented, including South, Central, and Northern American countries, the Caribbean, TWS leadership and representatives, and multiple other working groups and chapters! We are so excited about collaborating and supporting all of you and others.

If you missed it, here is the [Slide show](#), which includes basic information on the working group, our goals, what does a working group do, a little about LACWG's development and the open positions!



## Welcome Our New Board Member!



**José Gabriel Martínez-Fonseca**  
Central American  
Engagement Chair



Hello! My name is José Gabriel Martínez-Fonseca and I am currently a postdoc at Northern Arizona University. I am originally from Nicaragua but I've worked with wildlife in much of Central America and the southwestern United States. Most of my study subjects are small animals like bats, rodents, and herps. I am also a passionate wildlife photographer and I am happy to serve in this working group and share with you my experiences researching wildlife in Latin America.

[MEET ALL OF OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMEBRS](#)



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## Become a Board Member!

### Help Us Expand Our Leadership Team!

We have multiple Officers and Committee Chairs open for those interested. Access or share the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHWS7QiUtxXUK1fKbsf7Fvgj\\_4Oikv25OcsYtbECa7LRUw-Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHWS7QiUtxXUK1fKbsf7Fvgj_4Oikv25OcsYtbECa7LRUw-Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For more information on the positions and their roles access the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZJHTGCEMy5zgMafpR28Urk4OTYGuGhZ2/view?usp=sharing>

**JOIN OUR OFFICER BOARD & COMMITTEES**

Swipe To See Descriptions →

- Treasury & Grants Chair
- Content Creation Committee (3)
- Events & Planning Committee (3)
- Engagement Chair: Brazil
- Engagement Chair: Caribbean
- Student Development Chair

To apply go to:  
[tinyurl.com/lacwg-join](https://tinyurl.com/lacwg-join)

Latin American & Caribbean Working Group  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## Share your field stories and pictures with us!

We want to hear more from you and the work that you do, we will have a space in our newsletter to share the stories and pictures you have, please fill out this form if you want to see your story in our next bulletin [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cBm-B\\_xMyMUqZHVoXqZiGoLWSayH3U2g65bcOvwIb9E](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cBm-B_xMyMUqZHVoXqZiGoLWSayH3U2g65bcOvwIb9E).

## Murciélagos en Washington



Hi! I'm Victoria a biologist from Mexico, this summer I've been helping monitor bat colonies in different locations of the North Cascades National Park in Washington State. We've been monitoring the presence of white nose syndrome, which is a disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which attacks the skin of hibernating bats and damages their delicate wings, making it difficult to fly. Infected bats often leave hibernation early, which causes them to lose their fat reserves and become dehydrated or starve to death.

In Washington we have 15 bat species that are insectivorous, and play a huge role in the ecosystem by balancing the population of insects around us, they can eat tons of insects that can negatively affect the forest health, commercial crops, and human health and well being, so THANK YOU bats!!!! The colonies we were monitoring seemed pretty healthy which are good news! But the park has to keep an eye on all of this little guys and hopefully they will stay healthy.

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## Hispanic Heritage Month

### Highlight Latino Wildlife Society Members



The Wildlife Society and LACWG is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (September 14 - October 15) and we need **YOUR HELP!** We need 10 to 12 members who would be interested in being spotlighted for The Wildlife Society's Meet a Member Monday Series on the TWS Weekly Newsletter/Instagrams **or** being featured in a [Wildlife Vocalizations](#) article. These materials along with infographics, featured research articles, and more will be posted throughout the month. We hope to host a fundraising campaign as well.

If interested in partaking please send an email to Interim-Chair Carlos Hinojosa ([Carlos12611@vt.edu](mailto:Carlos12611@vt.edu)) or [lacwg.tws@gmail.com](mailto:lacwg.tws@gmail.com)

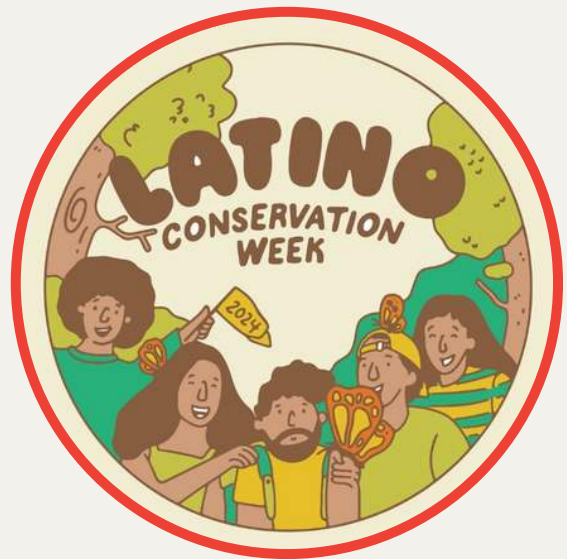
If interested in helping helping execute Hispanic Heritage Month, please consider joining our [Events and Planning Committee!](#)

### Celebrate Latino Conservation Week September 14-22



Latino Conservation Week is an initiative by the [Hispanic Access Foundation](#) that aims to encourage the Latino community to engage with the outdoors and natural resources.

Throughout Latino Conservation Week, various organizations hold events nationwide. These activities range from hiking and camping to community roundtables and film screenings. They promote conservation efforts within the community and provide Latinos with an opportunity to support the permanent protection of the environment.



Although the Latin American & Caribbean Working Group is not able to host an event for Latino Conservation Week this year, we still look forward to promoting the initiative and providing support to the Hispanic Access Foundation. Likewise, we have already reached out to the organization to discuss future collaborations and even a potential partnership/sponsorship. We hope to cultivate a relationship between our organizations and eventually The Wildlife Society at large.

You can access the list of Latino Conservation Week events happening **across** the country by using the following link: <https://latinoconservationweek.com/events/2024-events>



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The Latin American & Caribbean Working Group  
**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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## Other Updates

### Annual Conference

The Latin American & Caribbean Working Group will host its first In-Person Meeting at the 2024 Annual Conference in Baltimore!

More details are to be announced but we hope to have/do the following:

- Present our charter for review
- Hold roundtables to discuss issues in our community
- Host a networking session
- Hear updates from the Mexico and Southwest Chapter

You can access more information about the annual conference and register [here](#)



### Resources

- [The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Travel Grants](#)
- [Native Peoples' Wildlife Management Working Group: Professional Development Program](#)



If you are able, we'd be honored to have you as an official member of the LACWG. At this time, it costs \$5 USD, and you must be a current member of TWS. Please reach out to us if you have any concerns regarding the fee.

#### Join the working\_group

- Log in to your TWS account.
- Under Membership, select Add Organization Unit Membership.
- Under Working Groups, select Latin American and Caribbean Working Group.
- Check out.

The TWS Latin American and Caribbean Working Group is dedicated to fostering collaboration and addressing critical issues in the region related to wildlife and conservation.

Our primary aim is to create a platform for professionals, researchers, and enthusiasts to come together, share knowledge, and work to better serve TWS members in Latin America, the Caribbean, and those within the regions' diaspora.

[THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS](#)



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[TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!](#)