

# THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2020 Issue I

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Winter Edition

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## The President's Message



Jessica with bobcat tracks.  
Credit Jessica Moreno.

Welcome to 2020 and a new year! I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico chapters of The Wildlife Society in Prescott and connecting, or re-connecting, in person.

This December, I spent some time in Catalina State Park checking wildlife cameras for a project I'm leading there. The air was fresh and crisp, and the soil was sticky from rain. Coyote and bobcat tracks wound their way along my path, as well as the heart-shaped impressions of deer and javelina. A female puma left her footprints as she crossed the wash, making use of the hiking trail before continuing her way downslope. I can't help but think that these tracks are so much like ours—each individual making

its unique way in life while still connecting and winding together. Some will stay in place, some will travel farther, but they are a community.

This past year has been a productive and inspiring time to work with my fellow AZTWS Board and Committee members, and I fully appreciate each of them for their time and contributions to our Chapter. You've made your mark on this organization (and continue to do so!), and I'm grateful our paths (and tracks?) wound together for a bit this year. Please join me in thanking Andrew Jones, who will be taking the reins this year as President, Past-President Tiffany Sprague, and Valerie Horncastle, Haley Nelson, Emily Scobie, Melissa Merrick, and Holly Hicks. You are a dream team! In addition, we have some long-standing Committee Chairs and volunteers who help make the wheels keep turning, including Holly and Andrew, Chris Carrillo, and Bill Burger. This year, we welcomed in several new Committee Chairs who brought fresh energy, new perspectives, wise institutional knowledge, and lots of

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## Presidents Message cont...

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added expertise to the team, including Samantha Novotny for Conservation Affairs, Mirna Manteca (based in Sonora, Mexico) for our new Social Media Communications Chair position, Marla Kostuk as our Webmaster, Kinley Ragan as Historian, Althea Weeks for Volunteer Opportunities, and of course our new Continuing Education Chairperson, Pedro Chavarria. Kay Nicholson continues as BFUPA Committee Chair (see pg 9), Scott Sprague leads BioBlitz event planning, and Brian Blais has done wonders as Newsletter Editor. You are all uniquely talented and each a truly valuable part of this Chapter and our professional wildlife community.

For students and professionals looking to get more involved, I encourage you to listen in on our monthly board meeting calls, run for Board positions, or volunteer to serve on a Committee. This is your space. We'd love to have you.

More than ever, we need community to lean on, learn with, and leverage together so that we can continue to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats in our science, management, and conservation work. Today, the transparency and replicability of our methods now must go beyond the peer-reviewed paper and technical report and speak truth inside the characters of a single tweet. It is time to leave our comfort zones, to participate more, and to leverage the voices of good scientists around us, including those with different perspectives and silenced voices. Science is the pursuit of truth, and as you pursue truth in wildlife science and speak your knowledge, you will be leaving very fine tracks indeed.

I can't wait to see where you'll go.

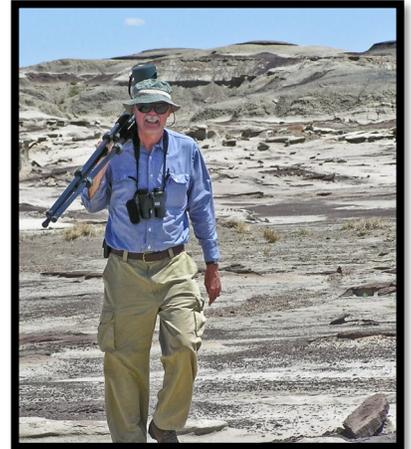
Happy Tracking,  
Jessica Moreno

## Regional News:

### Southwest Section Tracks

By Jim Ramakka  
Southwest Section Representative

After a packed Fall schedule, it has been nice to settle in for a few weeks to take a leisurely approach to the Holidays. I wrote my last column as I was preparing to leave for a photo workshop exploring Ecuador's biodiversity. I returned from that trip in time to spend only a few days at home before our



Annual Conference in Reno. As always, it was great to see old friends and to interact with early career professionals and students, but Council meetings and receptions kept me hopping. Our meetings were long but productive. The following is a very condensed summary of our activities:

#### Key Decisions by Council:

- Approving the development of a Mentorship for Life Program.
- Initiating a review of the TWS standing position statement on traps, trapping, and furbearer management.
- Approving creation and distribution of AWB® and CWB® pins to all active certified TWS members.
- Adopting the TWS Document Retention and Destruction Policy proposed by the CEO in collaboration with legal counsel.
- Transferring \$27,643.93 from the Council Action Fund to the Endowment Fund as per the late Jack Lyon's request.
- Increasing the operating budget expense cap for this fiscal year by \$5,000.

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## Regional News cont...

### Other actions:

- Review TWS governance documents to strengthen and clarify their policies regarding discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, bullying, and additional proposals.
- Continue development of a revised bylaws draft to be reviewed by Council, and if approved, presented to the membership for review and voting in May–June 2020.
- Define what qualifies as an “unofficial transcript,” and make a recommendation as to whether they should be accepted by the Certification Review Board.
- Develop a decision process for spending Council Action Funds.
- Develop a 10-year plan for TWS international activities.

### In Addition:

- The CEO will now work with TWS’ investments manager to create new endowment funds.
- Council discussed strategies for continuing support of diversity and inclusion efforts.
- President White presented an agenda that will focus on the importance of science and gaining recognition for it in political circles.
- Progress on developing a licensing agreement with the Canadian Section was reviewed.
- Council directed the CEO to investigate options related to sale or retention of the existing Headquarters property and present them at the March 2020 Council Meeting.
- Recommendations from the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group related to the TWS Wildlife Killing Contests Issue Statement were discussed. Council proposed no changes.
- Strategies to maintain high levels of student engagement at the annual conference were examined.

*An excellent and much more detailed summary is posted on the TWS News and Notes webpage [here](#).*

After the Reno conference, I flew home to re-pack my gear for a long-planned trip to chase birds with a camera in the Atlantic forests of Brazil in habitats, which I had not visited previously in 2017. Wildlife management and conservation in Latin America has been an interest of mine for many years. My recent trips to South and Central America have highlighted the growth of ecotourism and citizen science, the importance of private and government managed reserves, and the efforts of some indigenous peoples to preserve biodiversity in a complex and fascinating part of the world.

When I finally returned home, I was excited to read a summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Wildlife Management and Conservation in Mexico, held November 12–15 in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Southwest Section members Dr. Raul Valdez and Dr. Luis Antonio Tarango Arámula played key roles in organizing both this conference and a prior one in 2018. At this conference’s plenary session, TWS President Dr. Gary White’s spoke on the “History of the relationship between Mexico and U.S. wildlife professionals, and why TWS feels it is important for a stronger connection.” That talk was followed by TWS SW Section President-elect, Dr. Fidel Hernandez, speaking on the “Benefits of professional engagement with TWS for Mexican biologists.”

I’m pleased with the support of my fellow TWS Council members towards TWS international involvement. Council contributed funds to assist both conferences. As a member of the International Wildlife Management Working Group for 25 years, I can remember many years ago when TWS leadership was less than enthusiastic about international outreach. Fortunately, we now recognize the importance of fostering cooperation with international colleagues in other nations, especially those with shared migratory wildlife populations. Council will continue to follow planning efforts for future conferences and consider options for TWS involvement with professionals and students in Mexico.

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## Regional News cont...

Since our meeting in Reno, TWS Council has addressed several topics. In mid-November, we discussed whether or not TWS should provide comments on the proposed reorganization of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM manages more wildlife habitat than any other agency, including 26.6 million acres in the SW Section. I provided input based on my 30-year career with the BLM as field biologist in four Western states and my last position as the Wildlife Program Leader in D.C. I expressed concerns about likely adverse impacts to the Bureau's wildlife program. I also cited position statements from the Public Lands Foundation and other sources that outlined the negative effects to renewable resource management programs. Keith Norris, TWS Director of Wildlife Policy and Administration, compiled similar concerns expressed by additional sources and worked with TWS President White to prepare in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior summarizing the issues of concern for TWS. That letter can be viewed [here](#).

On a December 9<sup>th</sup> teleconference meeting, Council discussed three topics:

- We reviewed and approved—with minor edits—the minutes of the Fall Council Meeting held in Reno September 28–29. Those minutes are posted for viewing on the TWS website.
- Conference planning was also discussed. As announced earlier, our 2020 annual meeting will be held in Louisville, KY and we will meet in Baltimore, MD in 2021. Council looked at options to move the Annual Conference across the country in a way that maximizes opportunities for members to attend. Executive Director Ed Thompson reviewed the present strategy for planning Annual Conferences; he and TWS Staff have been actively soliciting and reviewing candidate sites and venues for the 2022 and 2023 Annual Conferences. Several promising bids have been received. Once negotiations are completed, Council will determine the final selections.
- Finally, Council reviewed an Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies sponsored proposal to survey values, beliefs, and attitudes of practicing wildlife conservation professionals. A key objective would be to measure any change from responses received in a similar 1998 survey of TWS members. Council members discussed the need to verify that appropriate parameters would be employed to ensure conformance with privacy policies and that the latest protocols for survey design and analysis are incorporated. The proposal will undergo further review.

If you have any questions about any of the topics listed above, please contact me either by phone, email, or in person at the upcoming Annual Chapter Meetings. Travel conditions permitting, I plan to attend the AZ/NM Chapters' Joint Annual Meeting in Prescott and the business meeting and President's Reception at the Texas Chapter Meeting. Unfortunately, I'll have to cut my visit to Corpus Christi short in order to return home in time to leave on another long-planned trip.

Also, you've already started seeing announcements asking for nominations for various TWS Awards. Please check out the various awards described on the TWS website under the "[Engage](#)" tab. If you know individuals or groups worthy of special recognition, please consider submitting a nomination.

Finally—Best wishes to everyone for a successful and happy New Year!

Jim Ramakka, CWB®

Southwest Section Representative

[j\\_ramakka@msn.com](mailto:j_ramakka@msn.com)

(505) 486-2746

# JAM 2020 Information!

The 53rd Joint Annual Meeting of the AZ/NM American Fisheries Society and the AZ and NM chapters of The Wildlife Society

January, 30<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020



The conference will be hosted at the [Prescott Resort and Conference Center](#), Prescott, AZ. When making reservations at the Prescott Resort and Conference Center use code **G1292**. Book ASAP!

**Registration** is still OPEN for professionals, exhibitors, students, and enthusiasts alike! Click [here](#) for more details

There are several **Continuing Education Workshops** available, such as wildlife acoustics, student professional development, distance sampling, piscicide application, and machine learning for wildlife camera data. Check out the workshops, including time offerings, [here](#).

Don't forget to run (walk, crawl,...swim?) in the annual [SPAWNING RUN!](#)



For more information, check out the official [2020 JAM website](#).

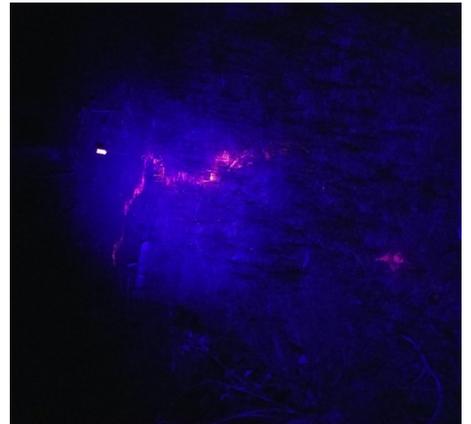
# Student Voice

## Radiant Rodents

*Sandy Slovikosky,*

*Senior, Wildlife Conservation and Management, University of Arizona*

The sun was already setting as I prepared to head out to my field sites. Grabbing my backpack, flashlights (with extra batteries!), and jacket, I double-checked to make sure I had the most important thing: a UV light. This night was supposed to be pitch black due to the presence of a new moon, creating the perfect conditions for what I was about to do. Upon arriving at my field sites and pulling out my GPS, I navigated to the first location, turned about with my flashlight 360° to check for any shining eyes glaring back at me, and then shut off all lights. Next, I switched on the UV light to a spectacular sight. A vibrant, glowing, orange trail of powder lay ahead of me and disappeared between the forest trees. I followed it, marking every major turning point as I went, and secretly hoping the trail wouldn't lead under a fallen tree, lest my hair become filled with branches and leaves. Finally, upon arriving at the last speck of powder, I found what I sought: a large rock outcrop covered with traces of powder. The animal had returned to its nest. I headed back to the field vehicle and repeated the procedure at my remaining sites, feeling accomplished and ready for bed.



Credit Sandy Slovikosky.



A packrat's tracks. Can you see the individual paw prints? Credit Sandy Slovikosky.

This story summarizes my summer in which I used a technique known as “fluorescent powder tracking.” As an undergraduate senior majoring in Wildlife Conservation and Management at the University of Arizona and preparing to go to graduate school, gaining research experience was always important to me. Thus, I applied to the UA’s Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) and decided to study packrats on Mt. Graham (i.e., Pinaleno Mountains) in Southern Arizona with my mentor, Dr. John Koprowski. The study location on the mountain was the site of the severe 2017 Frye Fire that burned more than 48,000 acres and presented an opportunity to study how disturbances, such as fire, affect

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ecological communities. Small mammals, and their changes in behavior, are often good indicators of these disturbance effects, creating a relatively simple and cheap yet understudied approach to understanding natural phenomena.



Sandy weighing a packrat. Credit Neil Dutt.

movement. My results showed there were slightly more turns for packrats that ran over highly burned areas, and that dense vegetation was avoided whereas logs were preferred in both burned and unburned patches. I hope to publish these results because there is a lack of scientific literature on this specific packrat—the Mexican woodrat (*Neotoma mexicana*).



For my study, I captured and moved packrats a short distance from their nests in early mornings, covered them in pink, orange, or yellow non-toxic fluorescent powders—which glow under UV light at night—then released them. The following evenings, I tracked and marked the number of turns in their trails upon returning to their nests. I also assessed the vegetation and



Credit Sandy Slovikosky.

noted the burn severity of the habitat patches over which they moved to shed further light on their movement. My results showed there were slightly more turns for packrats that ran over highly burned areas, and that dense vegetation was avoided whereas logs were preferred in both burned and unburned patches. I hope to publish these results because there is a lack of scientific literature on this specific packrat—the Mexican woodrat (*Neotoma mexicana*).

I am also excited to present at both the upcoming UBRP conference and at the Joint Annual Meeting of the AZ/NM Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society. Not only do small mammals teach us about ecological disturbances, but they are also completely underrated...especially when covered in fluorescent powder in a pitch black night!



Packrat covered in fluorescent powder. Credit (above and left) Sandy Slovikosky.

# Masked Bobwhite Quail Conservation

*Sarah Rinkevich,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

The Masked Bobwhite Quail (MBQ)—a subspecies of Northern Bobwhite Quail—is the only endangered quail in North America and was considered extirpated in the United States in 1900. The MBQ Recovery Team was formed in 2009 and is one of the many highly active Recovery Teams in Region 2. The MBQ Recovery Team is a binational team consisting of scientists and quail experts from Arizona Game and Fish Department, San Diego Natural History Museum, Sutton Avian Research Center, FWS-Refuges, and Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora, Mexico. Members of the MBQ Recovery Team are continually committed participants in the releases of MBQ on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR). The MBQ Team most recently met on November 8, 2019, to discuss a number of topics, including recent releases and a 5-year strategy.



The Sutton Avian Research Center, located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, has been an instrumental partner in MBQ recovery. This year, the Sutton facility raised roughly 450 MBQ chicks from eggs provided by BANWR for releases in 2018. The MBQ chicks were placed with surrogate Texas bobwhite (sterile) or MBQ adults to bond. Males are used because females do not bond with chicks that are not their own. The surrogate parents and chicks were released at four different locations on BANWR in August

and September of this year. In 2019, 623 birds were released on BANWR between July 10 and September 18.

Because of the incredible conservation efforts led by the BANWR and the Recovery Team, both survival and reproduction have been documented on the Refuge in 2019. Moreover, wild-hatched masked bobwhite were documented on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in 2019. This is extremely good news for the species!



Male (left) and chick (above) Masked Bobwhite Quail.  
Credit USFWS.

## Research and Engagement Opportunity: Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS) is a sponsor of the Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals (BFUPA), which is an Arizona-based foundation whose mission is to conduct natural history investigations of understudied plants and animals in the American Southwest (including Mexico). A charter for BFUPA has been prepared and is available to view on the AZTWS website [here](#). As an AZTWS member, there are opportunities for you to get involved. Consider projects that you would be interested in pursuing and submit a proposal for funding to the AZTWS BFUPA Committee Chair (Kay Nicholson, [Kay.E.Nicholson@jacobs.com](mailto:Kay.E.Nicholson@jacobs.com)). You can also support BFUPA with a tax-deductible donation to fund projects that BFUPA is undertaking.



Omilteme cottontail, *Sylvilagus insonus*. Credit Stephen J. Davies (ca. 2009, iNaturalist).

Donations by credit card are accepted online (click [here](#) and fill out the online form; be sure to indicate that the donation is for BFUPA in the box labeled “Additional Details”) or by check (made out to “Borderlands Foundation for Understudied Plants and Animals” and mailed to Linda Searles, Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N 156th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85262). The following is a summary of recent BFUPA activities:

1. Successfully conducted an x-ray aging technique for jackrabbits.
2. Conducted a survey and developed a conservation plan for the white-tailed jackrabbit in North America.
3. Conducted two workshops at Arizona State University on how to prepare mammal study skins.

### Projects that have been completed by BFUPA and accepted for publication include these:

1. Publication of *The Recent Mammals of Sonora, Mexico* by William Caire. This dissertation and a foreword by D. E. Brown were published in the *Journal of the Arizona/Nevada Academy of Science* in 2019.
2. The decline and status of white-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus townsendii*) in North America. This study, to be published in the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*, documents the decline and present status of this hare within its historical range.

### Projects completed and awaiting publication in *The Journal of Arizona/Nevada Academy of Science* including the following:

1. A documentation of fluctuations within an antelope jackrabbit population: this study, initiated by Jim Heffelfinger and being continued by Karen Klima, examines the changes in jackrabbit populations at Jack Kamp from 2010 to the present and compares the results with precipitation and predator trapping data.
2. Fluctuations within two antelope jackrabbit populations in Altar Valley: this study, led by Maria Altemus, compares 10 years of jackrabbit survey results between grazed (Anvil Ranch) and ungrazed (Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge) grasslands in Altar Valley.

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### Projects that are underway or in the planning process include these:

1. Investigations into the status of white-sided jackrabbits in Mexico. This study, spearheaded by Consuelo Lorenzo, evaluates the status and population trends of the two subspecies of *Lepus callotis* found in Mexico. Two graduate students are presently working with volunteer cooperators documenting occurrences of *Lepus callotis* for this project.
2. An attempt to document the continued presence of *Sylvilagus insonus* in the Omilteme Forest Reserve in Guerrero, Mexico. This study, involving two field biologists under the auspices of Consuelo Lorenzo and partially funded by the Phoenix Zoo, has located several latrines that provided DNA samples expected to be of this species. A photograph (see page 9) is the only known image of a living specimen.
3. An antelope jackrabbit vs black-tailed jackrabbit diet analysis. This study, led by Kerry Baldwin and Nashelly Meneses at the Northern Arizona University genetics laboratory, is documenting dietary items from pellets obtained from animals collected in Altar Valley. Partial funding for this study is provided by the Tucson Chapter of Safari Club International.
4. A dietary analysis of desert and eastern cottontails in the Altar Valley in Pima County, Arizona. This study is led by Kerry Baldwin and Nashelly Meneses and is mostly funded by Quail Forever.
5. Documentation of antelope jackrabbit herd behavior. This study expands the database on group behavior of antelope jackrabbits and is being conducted by Kerry Baldwin, who is also doing a road



X-rays of bobcat feet. Credit James O'Brien, Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.



Sensing an opportunity, an adult bobcat leaps from the edge of a wetland in hopes of capturing a meal. Credit Ian Adrian.

- kill analysis based on moon phases.
6. Bobcat aging technique based on closure of epiphyseal cartilage by James O'Brien at the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.
7. A biotic inventory of the Sierrita Mountains conducted by volunteer biologists.
8. An urban bobcat interface study drafted by Cheryl Mollohan has been submitted for Heritage Grant funding.
9. A long-term small mammal study being conducted in the Altar Valley by Randy Babb.
10. Planning a study of rehabilitated bobcats that have been released back into the wild.

# Join Us in Tracking Flowers for Bats in Arizona

*E. E. Posthumus,*

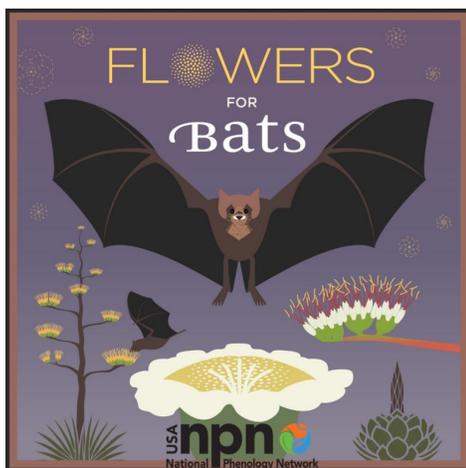
*Outreach Coordinator & Liaison to the USFWS, USA National Phenology Network*

This past summer, volunteers across southeastern Arizona hit the trails armed with datasheets and binoculars. But not to observe birds; these volunteers were looking at flowers of agave and cacti. Agave and columnar cacti are critical food sources for nectar feeding bats, two of which summer in Arizona and New Mexico each year, the Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) and lesser long-nosed bat (LLB; *Leptonycteris yerbabuena*). The lesser long-nosed bat travels north from Mexico to the United States each spring on a journey that can cover almost 1,000 miles. The bats feed on nectar and pollen from agave and cacti along their migration route as well as after they arrive at their maternity roosts in southern Arizona.

Over the past half century, the number of LLBs in the United States declined due to disturbance of maternity and day roosts, loss of food sources, and direct threats from efforts to control vampire bats in Mexico. The LLB was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1988. In the three decades that followed, the U.S. and Mexico collaborated to increase the population by protecting agaves and other nectar sources and blocking off humans from caves with “bat gates.” The efforts were largely successful, and the LLB was removed from the federal list of endangered species in April 2018. It was the first bat to ever be removed from the Endangered Species Act protections due to recovery.



Flowers for Bats Observer Jane Davenport observes a Palmer's agave at Cienega Creek Natural Preserve near Vail, AZ. Credit Brian F Powell.



Flowers for Bats logo.

To ensure the continued recovery, the USFWS created a Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan to track LLB roost occupancy and assess forage availability. The goal of nectar forage monitoring is to understand if climate changes are causing bats to become out of sync with flowering periods. That is where our flower observers come in. In 2017—in partnership with the USFWS—the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) created Flowers for Bats, a community effort to document the timing of agave and columnar cacti flowering across the U.S. range of the lesser long-nosed bat.

This year, 15 partners and 21 independent volunteers joined the effort to track flowering across southern Arizona. Among the partners were four National Parks, two National Wildlife Refuges, a State Park, and two Botanical Gardens. Observers follow the USA-NPN's Lesser Long-nosed Bat Forage Phenology Monitoring Protocol, available at [fws.usanpn.org/Campaigns/flowersforbats](https://fws.usanpn.org/Campaigns/flowersforbats). In

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2019, they documented the start, peak, and end of flowering for more than a hundred saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*), Palmer’s agave (*Agave palmeri*), and mescal agave (*Agave parryi*) plant individuals. On average, saguaro flowers in the Tucson area opened in early April, peaked in May, and ended in mid-July. There was a smaller period of flowering from August to October. *Agave palmeri* flowers—typically occurring at elevations of 3,000 to 6,450 feet—opened at the end of May, peaked in July, and ended in September.

The USA-NPN will continue to coordinate the Flowers for Bats monitoring program over the 15-year period of the Post Delisting Monitoring Plan. After we have multiple years of data, we can start to understand the influence of climate on the timing of flowering for critical nectar species. With this information, the USFWS will know the optimal conditions for flowering, which can guide their activities to conserve bat habitat.



Saguaro flowers. Credit Brian F Powell.

We are seeking additional partners and observers to join us in 2020 to observe flowering of agave and cacti! We are also interested in hearing about other species for which you need phenology data. Contact Erin Posthumus at [erin@usanpn.org](mailto:erin@usanpn.org).

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## Early Bear Research in Arizona

*Kerry Baldwin*

As part of a multi-year study in the Four Peaks area—which generated a report and papers in journals such as *The Journal of Wildlife Management*—Al LeCount helped create a popular video titled *Bears in Arizona*. The video aired on the *Wildlife Views* television show on PBS, and copies were supplied to all Arizona public schools. Additionally, many free copies were given to educators attending the Project WILD workshops in the late 1980s and 1990s.

A fun film out-take with Jim Wegge, Al LeCount, and Grover the bear, circa early 1980s. Credit Kerry Baldwin.

## Grateful for AZTWS Support to Attend TWS Conference in Reno

*Brian Blais,*

*PhD Student, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona*

This past fall, I was awarded a Continuing Education Grant from the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS). This award helped me attend and present my research at the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) Joint Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. This conference saw the merger of AFS and TWS for possibly the single largest gathering of wildlife professionals ever! With so many like-minded biologists, managers, and nature enthusiasts, there was ample opportunity to engage with my peers, listen to fascinating research talks, check out the latest gear with vendors, and mingle at the many social-style gatherings.

As an emerging professional in wildlife ecology, my research links zoo-based conservation with field biology. There is a growing recognition for the invaluable conservation efforts put forth by zoos and aquariums, including research and management efforts by both AFS and TWS members. My research involves gathering information from animal studies at the zoo-level (e.g., conservation breeding programs), such as detailed growth data and seasonal behavior trends—often metrics that could be resource-demanding or onerous to gather in the wild—and applying it to better inform field planning. In turn, I share field-based ecological data so zoos can optimize reproduction efforts by incorporating naturalistic conditions and parameters. Specifically, I work closely with the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo on efforts to better



Looking for resident wildlife in the Lake Tahoe area—a western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) sunbathing with a watchful eye. Credit Brian Blais.



Dr. Scott Bonar gives a plenary at AFS/TWS 2019 on the importance of science communication. Credit The Wildlife Society.

understand and propagate rare, native gartersnakes to ultimately replenish wild populations. At the AFS/TWS meeting, I disseminated my collaborative zoo research among peers and had useful feedback and engaging conversations.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to have attended the AFS/TWS conference and the support of AZTWS that got me there. This was also my first time in the Reno/Sierra Nevada Mountains region, and I loved it there—it was a pleasant temperate reprieve from summertime field work in southern Arizona!

# Attention Wildlife Students and Young Professionals

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

## Upcoming Learning Opportunity

**Who:** Open to Students and Young Professionals. Other Chapter members who would like to attend will be placed on a waiting list for any leftover spots.

**What:** 2020 Wildlife Techniques Workshop

**When:** April 18, 2020

**Where:** Horseshoe Ranch

**Cost:** Free, but a \$6 annual membership with the Arizona Chapter of TWS is requested ([join here](#))

**Info:** The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society is hosting a one-day workshop on Wildlife Techniques. Classes will be held throughout the day and there will be bat mist netting after dark on Saturday and potential activities on Sunday morning. Camping will be permitted at Horseshoe Ranch on both Friday and Saturday night for all participants and offers opportunities for informal networking with professionals. Classes will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM with the exception of a few activities including bat mist netting.

This is a hands-on workshop during which you will be exposed to several different techniques used in the field of wildlife management. These techniques and demonstrations will be taught by the professionals who use them regularly, such as the Arizona Game and Fish Department, USDA Wildlife Services, local Universities, and non-governmental organizations.

Some of the topics may include the following:

- Capture techniques (Sherman traps, clover traps, etc.).
- Darting/leg holds/propane net guns
- CODA Net Gun
- Bat identification and mist netting.
- Radio-telemetry and GPS.

Space is limited to 60 persons, so **you must RSVP by April 10<sup>th</sup>!**

To reserve your spot for this practical skills learning opportunity contact **Holly Hicks** at **623-236-7499** or [hhicks@azgfd.gov](mailto:hhicks@azgfd.gov).

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We need **articles, stories, updates, and pictures** for upcoming newsletters.

*The Arizona Wildlifer* Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<b>Spring 2020</b>	<b>Mar 20, 2020</b>
<b>Summer 2020</b>	<b>Jun 12, 2020</b>

Email submissions to [aztwseditor@gmail.com](mailto:aztwseditor@gmail.com).



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