

My Life as a Wildlife Biologist by A.J.T. Johnsingh

Memories of my early boyhood are full of scenes from my native village, Anaigudi, where my paternal grandparents lived. Anaigudi lies near the southern tip of India, less than two km from the Bay of Bengal. Bluish-green waves rise from the sea, forming spiraling white waves that lap the black rocks and froth and roll on the cream-colored sandy shore. Red sand dunes, on which palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) and ficus (*Ficus bengalensis*) trees stand buried, enabling the fronds and canopy to caress the ground, stretch between the sea and the village. Fan-throated lizards (*Scitana ponticeriana*) scurry on the sand dunes to a background of cooing ring doves (*Streptopelia decaocta*) and the calls of grey partridge (*Francolinus ponticerianus*).

As with many people, there were some turning points in my life. One was my accidental discovery of a Tamil translation of *Man-eaters of Kumaon*, one of six books written by Jim Corbett, in the library of Nanguneri, a small town where my parents were working as school teachers. Jim Corbett, a Briton, was born and raised in India. During the early 1900s he shot ten man-eating tigers and leopards that had killed 1500 people.

But for Jim Corbett, these cats would have killed many more people. In most cases, Jim Corbett tracked and shot the man-eaters, often alone and on foot. His lucid writings, loaded with natural history and excellent information on the behavior of animals, stimulated my inborn interest in wildlife.

Another turning point was my chance meeting with J.C. Daniel of the Bombay Natural History Society in May, 1971, in the southern Western Ghats (a mountain range extending from Bombay to the tip of south India). By this time, I had finished my postgraduate degree in zoology and was working as a lecturer in a college. Daniel's encouragement eventually led me to study dholes, or Asiatic wild dogs (*Cuon alpinus*), in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in south India for my Ph.D. from 1976 to 1978. My dissertation was the first study conducted in India, by an Indian, on a free-ranging large mammal. Bandipur Tiger Reserve has an abundance of wildlife, including a high density of elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and tigers (*Panthera tigris*). Because my study was carried out on foot,

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Request for Annual Meeting Proposals

The Board of Governors welcomes proposals from organizations that would like to host SCB's 2007 and 2008 annual meetings. The Board is soliciting proposals for the 2007 meeting from outside of North America, especially Australasia, Asia, and Africa, and is soliciting proposals for the 2008 meeting from within North America. Proposals that have the explicit involvement of the relevant SCB Section (see www.conbio.org/Sections) and proposals sponsored by multiple sections (one of which may be the Marine Section) are especially encouraged.

To obtain a copy of the proposal format and instructions or for more information, please contact Bethany Woodworth, chair of the Conference Committee, at Bethany_Woodworth@usgs.gov. Proposals for 2007 (Australia, Asia, or Africa) will be due 15 January 2005 and proposals for 2008 (North America) will be due 15 April 2005. The locations of the 2007 and 2008 meetings will be announced at the 2005 annual meeting in Brasilia (see page 10).

Brasília welcomes SCB's 2005 meeting

The 2005 annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, *Conservation Capacity Building and Practice in a Globalized World* (see page 10), will be an outstanding opportunity not only to exchange information and ideas with conservation professionals from around the world but also to learn and experience the vibrant culture of Brazil. We strongly encourage all members to attend the meeting and, if possible, to extend their stay in the Austral and Neotropical American region.

The political realities of a globalized world may require attendees from outside Brazil to plan thoughtfully and well in advance of their anticipated travel. The visa and vaccination information here provides an overview for planning. Please consult the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate General in your home country for complete, authoritative information.

As in previous years, World Travel Service has worked with SCB to offer reduced airline fares and service fees. Booking with World Travel enables SCB to earn vouchers that will be used to support travel by members from developing countries. World Travel offers international expertise and 24-hour access to a call center that can answer questions or change itineraries. To take advantage of these services contact Matthew Strausbaugh, 1200 18th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA,

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INTERNATIONAL SECTION NEWS

AFRICA

Highlights from the 2004 Annual Meeting

At the 2004 annual meeting, the Africa Section sponsored a symposium, *Conservation in areas of high population density in sub-Saharan Africa*. The symposium was organized by Norbert Cordeiro, Andrew Plumptre, Neil Burgess, Delali Dovie, and Beth Kaplin. In addition to participants from Europe and the United States, eight African conservation biologists participated in the symposium; we were able to assist many of them in finding sources of travel funds for their trip to New York. The symposium organizers negotiated with the journal *Biological Conservation* to devote a special section to peer-reviewed manuscripts from the symposium. The Africa Section Mentoring Committee, led by Matt Kauffman, will assist authors who would like guidance on writing, statistics, and so forth. If you are interested in the Mentoring Committee or would like to take advantage of its services please contact Matt.Kauffman@mso.umt.edu.

Fundraising by Steve Caicco was a great success and we owe him our thanks. Steve gathered a suite of beautiful photographs of African wildlife and landscapes. These were offered in a silent auction, with all funds going to the Section. Please contact Ron Abrams (ronwoolf@ix.netcom.com) if you have fundraising ideas for our Section.

2005 Annual Meeting

The African Section has embarked on a collaborative relationship with the Austral and Neotropical America Section to jointly organize a symposium, *Enabling, mainstreaming and implementation: putting conservation plans to work in the South*. This initiative is led by Delali Dovie of the Africa Section in collaboration with Javier Simonetti and other members of the Austral and Neotropical America Section. Under the leadership of Ron Abrams and Delali Dovie, the Africa Section also has been pursuing the possibility of jointly organizing a symposium with the Marine Section.

Other Initiatives

The Africa Section has been pursuing a relationship with the East African Wild Life Society, which publishes *African Journal of Ecology*. We are interested in expanding opportunities for publication of research on African conservation issues and partnership with the journal would serve as an excellent venue. This initiative is led by Mac Hunter, Paula Kahumbu, William Oloput, and others.

The following suggestions emerged from the Africa Section meeting at SCB's 2004 annual meeting.

- Develop an Africa Section conservation awards program for best paper by an African student at a conference in Africa (e.g., Pan African Ornithological Conference). If you are interested in pursuing this initiative please contact Beth Kaplin, bkaplin@antiochne.edu.

- Hold a small workshop on a topic relevant to African conservation biology students and professionals at a conservation or natural resources conference in Africa. Suggested topics included "How to publish your research."

- Strengthen our mentoring program to encourage publication by African conservation biologists.

- Ron Abrams, our Financial Officer, seeks help and support from the Section membership for various fundraising initiatives. Please contact Ron to assist.

- Our new Education and Science Officer, Alison Ormsby (ormsbyaa@eckerd.edu), is developing a database of academic institutions and professional organizations in Africa that address conservation biology. This resource will be placed on our Section's Web site.

- Paula Kahumbu encouraged us to publish in public-interest journals such as *Swara* (the magazine of the East African Wild Life Society). This is a way to gain writing and publishing experience and to communicate a conservation message to the public. There is often a small compensation if your submission is accepted for publication.

Please visit our Web site at www.conbio.org/africa for details about our Board of Directors and Section initiatives.

Beth Kaplin

ASIA

The Asia Section has made considerable progress during the past year. Our Web site, www.conbio.org/asia, contains information of particular relevance to Section members. We also have a listserv, *AsiaList*, with regular postings about events, job opportunities, and so forth. Subscription is free and is open to both SCB members and nonmembers.

Our first Section meeting, *Biodiversity Conservation in Asia: Current Status and Future Perspectives*, has been scheduled for 17–20 November 2005 in Katmandu, Nepal. The goal of the meeting is to bring together practitioners of biodiversity conservation from Asia and beyond to share experiences and effective strategies for preserving Asia's biodiversity. The anticipated outcome of the meeting is an enhanced understanding of how conservation biology best can be developed and promoted in Asia. Together, we will strive for improved working relationships throughout the region.

The meeting will feature oral and poster presentations, workshops, and conservation films. A post-meeting excursion to Royal Chitwan Conservation Park will be offered. Please register promptly; capacity is limited to about 150 people.

Call for Papers

Session topics will be established based on contributed abstracts that are accepted by the review committee. We believe this will allow the widest possible range of topics to be

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SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY ELECTION 2005

You may cast your vote using the attached ballot sheet, which can be removed and mailed without an envelope. Or, starting 1 November 2004, you may cast your vote online at www.conservationbiology.org.

In these statements, candidates were asked to focus on their objectives for and history with SCB.

Short versions of their curricula vitae, which provide biographical details, are available on the Web site.

Votes must be received by **1 March 2005**.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Luigi Boitani

I joined SCB in 1987 and was elected President of the Europe Section in 2001. I think SCB's role in rooting conservation firmly in sound science could be greatly expanded and, through the internationalization process, SCB could play a strategic role in supporting many initiatives and conventions on conservation issues, especially at the global level. For example, we have unique opportunities to play a scientific advisory role in international conventions on global conservation issues, offering a clearing house of scientific expertise; serve as a forum for government agencies, NGOs, and foundations dealing with conservation programs; link the scientific community with programs run by IUCN, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP, CBD, and so forth; and proactively explore cutting-edge conservation science through dedicated task forces and workshops, and by producing special publications on relevant and controversial issues of conservation science at global and regional scales. To achieve these roles, SCB needs to build a stronger identity as a truly global and international organization, and to expand its membership. By progressively engaging in active roles on the international conservation stage, we would have a broader value to offer and would attract many new members worldwide.

Georgina Mace

I joined SCB as a founder member in 1986. I was a member of the Editorial Board of *Conservation Biology* from 1994 to 1997, and a member of the Board of Governors from 1997–2000. While on the Board I co-chaired the Internationalization Committee with Mac Hunter, and led the process to form the Europe Section. My motivation for standing as President is based around the observation that the science of conservation biology still needs to move forward a good deal if we are to ensure that biological issues are well placed in environmental policy over coming decades. There are both core biological issues and interdisciplinary areas that need to be developed and this will require attention to the direction and quality of both science and policy. I believe that SCB is uniquely placed to lead the science and influence the policy. As President, I would seek to grow the relevant science base to inform international environmental policy, and to do this primarily through the emerging network of regional sections. I think all this is a natural progression from recent initiatives within SCB, so is gentle evolution, not any kind of revolution.

SECRETARY

Paul Beier

A member of SCB since 1989, I serve as Conservation Chair for the Colorado Plateau Chapter. During my 2002–2005 term as Local Chapters liaison on the Board of Governors, I (a) worked with the Executive Office to improve services to local chapters and developed a committee of chapter activists, (b) actively supported SCB's efforts to become a global community and to welcome all conservation practitioners (including social scientists and managers) to our publications and meetings, and (c) chaired the ad hoc committee that drafted SCB's first Code of Ethics. As Secretary, I want to (a) help our Policy Committee develop meaningful guidelines for SCB policy initiatives, (b) ensure follow-through on our ongoing Strategic Plan, and (c) apply our new Code of Ethics to SCB's behavior as an organization. My research (<http://oak.ucc.nau.edu/pb1>) focuses on conservation issues. I am an unabashed advocate of scientific advocacy. I helped protect the Coal Canyon Corridor in California, helped initiate "Missing Linkages" projects in four states, and continue as a leader in the California and Arizona projects. In Ghana I worked with chiefs to create and manage a sanctuary on the Black Volta River, which is now financially self-supporting.

Terry Rich

The Society for Conservation Biology is an exciting professional society because of its great diversity of interests and palpable energy. I've been a member since 1993 and have both participated in annual meetings and published in *Conservation Biology*. For nine years, I served as Secretary of the Cooper Ornithological Society and learned how to make the position of secretary function as it should to support the communication and achievements of a society.

More recently I also served on the Cooper Ornithological Society's Board of Directors and as President. I currently serve as an Elective Councilor for the American Ornithologists' Union. I believe that the networking made possible by involvement in multiple societies inevitably leads to new ideas and advances. Biologically, my recent experience has been with large-scale planning, including preparation of the North American Landbird Conservation Plan, the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, and a range-wide conservation assessment for sage-grouse. The Society for Conservation Biology is on a terrific course, and I would like to contribute more directly to its future.

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Ingrid Hogle

I am passionate about the importance of local chapters to international organizations—they enable grassroots work and facilitate personal relationships among members. As chapter liaison to the Board of Governors, I will apply my experience in establishing and maintaining effective local chapters to SCB. Strong leadership is needed at all levels to maintain a focused and effective organization. I have 15 years of such leadership experience; past positions include serving on the Board of Directors of the Amnesty International Mid-Atlantic Region and the Inter-Cooperative Council at the University of Michigan, and as president of local chapters of Amnesty International, InterAct (Rotary International), and SCB. As SCB continues to expand internationally, I see a strong need for SCB to promote its mission through the activities of local chapters around the globe. If elected to the Board of Governors, I will work to facilitate the expansion of local chapters in the International Sections of SCB. I will ensure that all chapters are provided with the information and resources to be effective in promoting the mission and goals of SCB.

Tom Sisk

I have been a member of SCB since its founding, working in various roles, from field biologist and activist, to Washington, D.C.-based agency scientist, to researcher and college professor. These diverse experiences have led me to value “on-the-ground” perspectives, where science and policy come together in concrete applications. As a member of the Board of Governors, I would work to strengthen the network and influence of SCB chapters, so that they can provide the critical mass needed to increase and sustain SCB’s influence and “reach” by connecting science and policy with local conservation efforts. I would also work to increase SCB’s leverage on key policy issues. My diverse professional experiences could prove helpful as SCB responds to emerging issues, such as the roadless rule, revisions of the National Forest Management Act, new endangered species legislation, and positions on a raft of global treaties. SCB should be, first and foremost, a leading scientific society, but its charter also mandates active pursuit of conservation efforts through research, policy, and management. By strengthening the network of SCB chapters, and helping to shape the science / policy interface, I believe that SCB can become a stronger advocate for science-based conservation worldwide.

HUMANITIES

Tracy Dobson

I joined SCB because it seeks to use science to solve real world problems and because both through its members and the organization as whole it has a realistic opportunity to do so. As a law and policy researcher I know that colleagues in biological science provide data crucial to inform decision making and policy making processes, but I recognize that solutions will be found and most effectively implemented by multidisciplinary teams. With this in mind, in SCB I have worked to strengthen

collaboration between natural and social scientists through introducing my research in fisheries co-management in Malawi and tribal fishing rights in the Laurentian Great Lakes. In addition, with colleagues from anthropology, history, political science, and psychology, I co-organized two annual meeting events aimed at broadly engaging the SCB membership in a dialogue on enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration. As a board member, I would advocate continued strengthening of the bridge between the disciplines. I would also advocate for SCB to continue to position itself to play a role in national and international policy making processes. I would be a strong supporter of the newly created Sections; I am a member of the Africa and North America sections.

Dale Goble

Nearly four years ago I began an intensive, multidisciplinary review of the U.S. Endangered Species Act with three other conveners. The objective was to examine the law / science interface in the implementation of the Act. Working with a diverse group of biologists, economists, historians, philosophers, and lawyers has been both intellectually stimulating and highly productive. The experience reinforced my belief in the value of multidisciplinary undertakings. One of the strengths that I would bring to the Board is a broad and multidisciplinary background in natural resource law and policy. I have worked in the Solicitor’s Office in the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., have taught nearly a dozen different natural resource and environmental history courses, and have written extensively, including coursebooks in the field of wildlife law. I also can be a pipeline to a new group of academics who presently may be unfamiliar with SCB. The world of natural resource and environmental law is itself going through a transformation that is encouraging interdisciplinary perspectives. It is an ideal time to facilitate greater cooperation—through joint symposia, small collaborative workshops, and other events—between two groups that have much to offer one another.

Donations to SCB promote the science of conservation biology and protect the diversity of life on Earth

- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. If you donate equities owned more than a year, you can avoid tax on the capital gains and reduce income tax by deducting the fair market value as a charitable contribution.
- Make a bequest to SCB in your will. A bequest may reduce taxes on your estate.

Please send donations to
Alan Thornhill
Executive Director, SCB
4245 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203, USA
(703) 276-2384
athornhill@conbio.org

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY ELECTION BALLOT 2005

Please indicate your choices by marking an "X" next to the appropriate names.

Statements provided by the candidates are attached (pages 3–4). Short curricula vitae are posted on SCB's Web site.

Starting 1 November 2004, you may cast your votes online at www.conservationbiology.org

BOARD OF GOVERNORS. Vote for **one (1)** candidate in each category.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Luigi Boitani
 Georgina Mace

SECRETARY

Paul Beier
 Terry Rich

LOCAL CHAPTERS

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_____ member number (printed on the newsletter mailing label) or name
*We ask you to provide your number or name to guarantee that each member casts only one ballot.
Ballots are strictly confidential.*

To allow sufficient time for processing, ballots must be received by **1 March 2005**

Return your ballot to
Kathryn Saterson
Duke Center for Environmental Solutions
Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences
Box 90328
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0328, USA

Please note: This ballot sheet may be removed, folded, and mailed without an envelope.
Only ballots on original newsletter paper will be counted.

postage

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USA

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addressed by participants. However, contributing authors are encouraged to think broadly in development of their abstracts, paying particular attention to the meeting goals and to critical issues such as biodiversity assessment, the role of protected areas, endangered species, transboundary issues, community-based conservation, sustainable use of biological diversity, conservation education and its reform, technological advancements in the realm of conservation biology, and implementation of major treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES. Individuals who wish to present research results are urged to include the conservation or policy implications of their findings in their abstracts and to specify what actions they believe need to be taken.

Abstracts should be no more than 200 words and in English. Authors should indicate clearly whether they are submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation. The deadline for submitting abstracts for oral presentations is 31 May 2005. Abstracts for poster presentations will be accepted until 31 August 2005. Submit abstracts by e-mail to Linda Whittaker, linda.whittaker@nature-parks.org.il.

Individuals who wish to organize and chair specific workshops or panel sessions must present a one page proposal to the organizing committee no later than 1 March 2005 indicating the need, goals, and expected outcome of the session. If accepted, the session chair must submit a completed panel outline (with participant list) or workshop outline to the organizing committee by 1 June 2005. Workshop and panel sessions should be two to four hours maximum.

Please visit the Asia Section's Web site for more information on meeting logistics, venue, and registration procedures.

Other news

SCB seeks proposals for the 2007 annual meeting (see pages 1 and 14). Please contact Linda Whittaker if you might be interested in hosting the annual meeting. The Section may be able to provide assistance with organization.

According to our bylaws, we are due to hold elections for four new members on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please submit your name to Linda Whittaker. Please provide a curriculum vitae or resume and a short statement explaining why you seek nomination.

Linda Whittaker

AUSTRALASIA

The Pacific Nations currently are isolated not only in a biogeographical sense, but also in terms of interaction with the broader conservation community. To help address this sense of isolation, increase communication within the Australasia Section, and bring a bit of recognition to conservation professionals in the Pacific Nations, the Section has initiated what we hope will be a regular 'Bula [hello] Column' from the South Pacific for the News and Views section of *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Some of these columns will be reprinted in the SCB newsletter. In this issue, for example, Craig Morley

presents an overview of current programs and challenges that conservation scientists face in Fiji. We warmly welcome further op-ed pieces, news items, research overviews, and so forth from others working in the Pacific Islands. Bula!

Vinaka vakalevu (thanks!)

Karen Firestone

Conservation in Fiji

Fiji is full of research opportunities, yet little conservation and ecological work has been conducted. Most research has focused on the marine environment while the terrestrial environment often has been ignored. However, we are redressing this imbalance. Recent projects undertaken on the land include surveying crested iguana (*Brachylophus vitiensis*) habitat, especially on remote dry forest islands (Wildlife Conservation Society, University of the South Pacific, and the National Trust of Fiji); field surveys of significant bird sites (Birdlife International); the Pacific-Asia Biodiversity Transect Network, a program for investigating Fiji's biodiversity (a joint project involving USP and most of the NGOs); a wildlife trade monitoring network (TRAFFIC International); field surveys of freshwater ecosystems (Wetlands International and USP); a forest and environmental education program (WCS); and establishment of a captive breeding program for the endangered Fijian ground frog (*Platymantis vitianus*).

Biologically speaking, therefore, Fiji is an exciting location. In the past three years, several international conservation organizations (e.g., Wildlife Conservation Society, Wetlands International, and Birdlife International) arrived and brought with them a wealth of new ideas, values, and conservation projects. Most importantly, their arrival has contributed to and complimented many of Fiji's established conservation programs. But even with this progress we are still in need of good researchers and much more can be done.

We particularly need taxonomic assistance. We are still discovering many new species, especially invertebrates. Unfortunately, many of the original animal collections from Fiji are held offshore in museums around the world; this does not help biologists currently working in Fiji. Other areas of concern are freshwater ecology; destruction and fragmentation of tropical rain forest, dry forest, and cloud forest; and extirpation of some important endemic vertebrates, such as the red-throated lorikeet (*Charmosyna amabilis*), pink-billed parrotfinch (*Erythrura kleinschmidti*), long-legged warbler (*Trichocichla rufa*), crested iguana, ground frog, and lizards like *Emoia nigra*.

Fiji is at a crossroads. Currently, the government is promoting high economic growth targets that could have negative environmental impacts. Some of our Pacific neighbors already have been devastated by logging and it would be unfortunate if similar destructive activities occurred here. Most Fijian land is owned by individuals and it is with them that many of our hopes remain. Indeed, efforts are underway to save more than 20,000 ha of tropical lowland rain forest in the Sovi Basin. If this effort succeeds, the Sovi Basin will become one of the largest reserves in the tropical South Pacific. The team working on this project has worked long and hard; the potential benefits

are immense. If the project is successful, Fiji will serve as an example of island community conservation to the world.

Fiji is a land of conservation opportunities. This work will depend on training new biologists and obtaining the necessary support, both financial and logistical. In my next report, I will focus on creation of a conservation ethic and conservation education in the tropical South Pacific.

Craig Morley

University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands

International Congress of Entomology

The International Congress of Entomology is held every four years. In 2004, the congress was held in Brisbane, Australia. The Australasia Section awarded a prize to the student who gave the best spoken paper with a conservation theme. We hope that the award will help to illuminate the importance of invertebrate conservation. The recipient of the 2004 award was Marie Yee, a Ph.D. student at the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Production Forestry at University of Tasmania. She received membership in SCB and a subscription to her choice of SCB's journals for her presentation "Why large logs support saproxylic beetles of conservation importance."

Australian Students Excel at SCB2004

Papers by Australian graduate students ranked highly at SCB's 2004 annual meeting. Samantha Fox and Leoni Valentine (James Cook University) and Tara Martin (University of Queensland) were among the 16 student award finalists [see SCB Newsletter 11(3)]. First-place awardee Martin commented,

"As an Australian post-graduate student attending my first overseas conference, I wondered how my work would compare to an international field. Receiving an award for my paper "Do experts know anything about birds and grazing?" was an acknowledgment that the caliber of work by Australian students is amongst the best in the world, and that Australian scientists are leading the fields of theoretical ecology, conservation planning, conservation biology, ecological modeling, and statistical analysis of complex systems.

"On a personal level, receiving the award was recognition of the interest in and potential contribution of my work to conservation biology and ecology. The paper I presented had two purposes: to examine the impact of grazing on birds in the absence of tree cover change and to investigate the role of expert opinion in increasing statistical power for an ecological question. One of our greatest challenges as researchers is predicting impacts of land use on biota. Predicting the impact of livestock grazing on Australian birds is no exception. Insufficient data and poor survey design often yield results that are not statistically significant or are difficult to interpret because researchers cannot disentangle the effects of grazing from other disturbances. As a result, there have been few publications on the impact of grazing on birds alone.

"Ecologists with extensive experience observing birds in grazed landscapes could inform an analysis when time and money limit data collection. We captured this expert knowledge and incorporated it into a statistical model using Bayesian methods, which allow straightforward probability statements to be made about specific models or scenarios. Bayesian methods also allow the integration of different types of information, including scientific judgement, while formally accommodating and incorporating the uncertainty in the information provided.

We used field data in conjunction with expert data to produce estimates of species persistence under grazing. For situations in which there is extensive expert knowledge but little published data, the use of expert information as priors for ecological models is a cost effective way of making more confident predictions about the effect of management on biodiversity."

New Guinea Biological Conference

The 6th Annual New Guinea Biological Conference was hosted by the Papua State University in Manokwari, Indonesian Papua from 6–9 October 2004. The Australasia Section donated AU\$500 for student travel and prizes, and membership to SCB and a subscription to *Conservation Biology* as the prize for the best student presentation with a conservation theme. All four prizes were received by students from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG).

Chris Dahl won the top prize for his presentation, "The montane frog fauna of Mt Michael, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea." Chris's work is supported by Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Three students tied for second place: Enock Kaledimimo (UPNG and WCS), "Density, diversity and reproductive status of small mammals in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area of Papua New Guinea;" Michael Kigl (UPNG and WCS), "Riverine waste disposal: Porgera mine sediment impact on the Porgera-Lagaip-Strickland river systems;" and Stewart Wossa (UPNG), "Comparative analysis of the chemistry of aromatic plants of Papua New Guinea."

The conference organizers clearly value their association with SCB. The SCB logo was featured on conference materials and SCB was listed as one of the three main sponsors although its financial contribution relative to the total cost of the conference was modest. Fenny Ismoyo, chair of the organizing committee, expressed gratitude to SCB and his hope that the relationship that has been developing between the New Guinea Biological Conference and SCB during the past two years will continue.

SCB member and conference attendee Ross Sinclair noticed an increasing trend in the number and quality of presentations with a conservation theme. He remarked that SCB student awards are now well known and well received, and commented that with a small investment SCB is raising the profile of conservation science among biologists in New Guinea.

Tish Silberbauer, Andy Mack, and Karen Firestone

MARINE

Section Events

Elections for two new officers of the Marine Section board will be held online from 1–30 November 2004. Please vote! Nomination statements of candidates and voting information are available at www.conbio.org/marine.

The Board of Directors will hold its first official retreat in Woodside, California, USA on 15–16 November 2004. We plan to discuss our strategic direction for the next few years, particularly focusing on involvement in SCB annual meetings including San Jose, California in 2006.

Journal Subscriptions

Funds from The Christensen Foundation [see SCB Newsletter 11(1)] are available to subsidize SCB memberships and subscription costs for *Conservation Biology* and *Conservation In Practice* in 2005 for marine conservationists who reside outside of North America. Please contact marine@conbio.org if you know of marine conservationists who could benefit from these funds. Priority will be given to individuals who did not receive support in 2004.

Marine Conservation News

The Marine Section's Web site now includes links to science and policy updates created by other organizations that have given us permission to use their material. The site also includes links to job announcements, sources of funding, Section activities, and listserv information.

Among the highlights:

Released by the United States Commission on Ocean Policy on 20 September 2004, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century* contains the Commission's final recommendations for a new, comprehensive U.S. national ocean policy. For details, see www.oceancommission.gov/documents/welcome.html.

Mexico's Olive Ridley sea turtles are making a comeback. Sea turtles are spawning in record numbers along Pacific coast of Mexico this year, mainly due to protection against poachers (www.reuters.com).

A study by World Resources Institute indicates two-thirds of Caribbean coral reefs are threatened due to pressures ranging from pollution to overfishing (www.wri.org).

Blue mussels were found growing 1300 km from the North Pole—a probable indication of global warming. These mussels were discovered in Norway's Svalbard archipelago, waters that are covered by ice much of the year (www.reuters.com).

Carolyn Lundquist and Elise Granek

NORTH AMERICA

Call for Nominations – North America Section Board

The North America Section is seeking nominations for three positions on the Board of Directors opening in July 2005. All three positions are essentially “at large” positions rather than officers. To qualify for nomination, an individual must be a current member of SCB and the North America Section; must agree to attend annual meetings of the SCB parent society; must be willing and able to participate in regular e-mail correspondence and occasional Board meetings by conference call; and otherwise be engaged in the Section.

To nominate a qualified individual, send a short biographical sketch to Reed Noss, rnoss@mail.ucf.edu, no later than 15 December 2004. Self-nominations are welcome.

The Sections of SCB are taking on most of the responsibility for addressing critical issues at the science–policy interface within their regions. Hence, it is essential that Section boards be composed of people willing and able to be actively involved.

Reed Noss, President Elect, North America Section

FRESHWATER WORKING GROUP

The Freshwater Working Group has begun to form committees and to define roles and responsibilities for them. The committees are Student Affairs, Communications, Symposia / Workshops, Extra-SCB Outreach, Inter-SCB Outreach, and Social. Volunteers are welcome to join any committee; Inter-SCB Outreach is currently the most under-subscribed. If you are interested in joining or learning more about these committees, please e-mail Robin Abell, robin.abell@wwfus.org.

Robin Abell will continue to serve as the Freshwater Working Group coordinator until the 2005 annual meeting. Mary Khoury has agreed to continue serving as the listserv moderator, and Ken Vance-Borland has volunteered to serve as secretary.

We welcome any freshwater-related submissions for the first Freshwater Working Group newsletter, which will be distributed quarterly to the freshwater listserv. Send items to freshwater@conservationbiology.org. Instructions for subscribing to the listserv are at www.conbio.org/freshwater.

Robin Abell

Verify your SCB membership status

SCB members have renewal dates that fall throughout the year. To check the status of your membership and subscriptions (which may have different renewal dates), use the tracking tool at www.conbio.org/status/.

The tracking tool requires you to enter your SCB Member ID or your SCB Username. Either or both are included in any email you have received from the Executive Office or on the mailing label of SCB publications. Your SCB membership and subscriptions will be extended appropriately if you renew before your anniversary date.

Conservation Capacity Building and Practice in a Globalized World

SCB 2005 Annual Meeting • Call for Abstracts

The 19th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, hosted by Universidade de Brasília, will be held 15–19 July 2005 in Brasília, Federal District, Brazil. The call for proposals for symposia, workshops, and organized discussions was issued previously; the deadline was 31 October 2004. The local organizing committee is now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations.

The scientific program will include plenary sessions, invited symposia, workshops, organized discussions, short courses, poster sessions, and concurrent sessions of contributed oral presentations. Due to the high level of attendance expected at the 2005 meeting and, consequently, limited time and space for oral presentations, poster presentations are strongly encouraged. Posters will be displayed prominently and for long periods of time during the meeting; special sessions dedicated to posters will allow in-depth discussion between authors and attendees.

Please adhere to the following guidelines when preparing your abstract for an oral presentation or poster.

- Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, including time for questions.
- The abstract should include new information. Abstracts should not be submitted for presentations that have been given at previous SCB meetings or similar conferences.
- The abstract should include specific information about the results and conclusions of the research. Abstracts that state “results will be discussed” will not be accepted.
- The abstract should have a clear connection to conservation biology.
- Contributed oral presentations will be grouped by topic. Please choose from the list of general topic areas to assist us in selecting an appropriate session for your presentation.
- If your abstract is accepted but cannot be accommodated as an oral presentation, you will be notified as soon as possible so that you will have ample time to prepare a poster.
- Individuals are limited to presenting only one oral or poster presentation. If your name appears on more than one presentation, make sure you are listed as the presenter for only one of them.

Registration. Presenting authors (oral and poster) must register for the meeting prior to **15 April 2005** or their presentation will be dropped from the program. Because late cancellation excludes others who might have presented, authors who fail to notify the local organizing committee of their withdrawal by 15 June 2005 will be excluded from giving a presentation at the 2006 annual meeting.

Oral presentation. All oral presentation session rooms will be equipped with a slide projector, an overhead projector, a computer projector, and a laptop computer. Presenters who wish to give a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation are strongly encouraged to submit the PowerPoint file by 1 July 2005 so that it may be pre-loaded to avoid incompatibilities and similar problems. If possible, submit the file via the meeting Web site (available as of 1 November 2004); if this is not possible, send

it on a CD to Daniella Mota at the address below. If absolutely necessary, the last opportunity to submit a PowerPoint file is the day before your presentation at the meeting’s PowerPoint loading center. File submission cannot be accommodated on the day of your presentation. If you need to make special arrangements for other types of audio or video presentations, e-mail Daniella Mota at scb2005@unb.br for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be submitted for oral and poster presentations and for invited symposia. Abstracts for symposium presentations are by invitation only.

Please follow the instructions carefully, including all requested information and formatting. Any abstract with errors or omissions will be returned to the sender for correction and runs the risk of missing the abstract submission deadline. Beginning 1 November 2004, abstracts should be submitted electronically via the meeting Web site, www.conservationbiology.org/2005. Web submission is strongly encouraged.

If you cannot submit your abstract via the Web site, please e-mail your abstract to Daniella Mota at scb2005@unb.br. The abstract should be attached as a Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, RTF, or ASCII text file, and the subject line of the e-mail should read “Abstract for SCB 2005.”

If neither Web nor e-mail submission is possible, please submit your abstract on a computer disk (CD preferred). Mail the disk along with a hard copy of your abstract to

Daniella Mota (SCB 2005)
Departamento de Zoologia, IB
Universidade de Brasília
70.910-900, Brasília, DF, Brazil

Regardless of the method of submission, all abstracts must be received by **23 January 2005**. The local organizing committee will attempt to notify all authors by 15 March 2005. Abstracts must be submitted according to the following format.

ABSTRACT FORMAT

1. Type of presentation. Indicate whether the abstract is intended for an Oral, Poster, Either Oral or Poster, or an Invited Symposium presentation.

2. Name of invited symposium. If applicable, indicate the name of the invited symposium to which the abstract belongs.

3. Authors. List all authors with the name of the presenting author in CAPITAL LETTERS. Order should be last name first for the first author, but first name first for all other authors. Write out full first names.

4. Addresses. List the institutional affiliations and addresses, including countries, for each author in the same order as above. For the presenting author only, include an e-mail address in

parentheses at the end of the address. If there are multiple addresses, place the initials of the author in parentheses at the end of each address (see examples below).

5. Title. List the title in CAPITAL LETTERS. Titles are limited to 150 characters.

6. Abstract. The body of the abstract is limited to one paragraph of 200 words (excluding formatting codes). Begin with a clear statement of the problem or objectives, give brief methods and major results, and end with a substantial conclusion. Do not use vague statements such as “results will be discussed.” Follow the instructions given below to indicate any special formatting or symbols within the abstract. Abstracts that exceed 200 words will be returned to the author for revision.

7. Topic areas. Please choose from the list of general topic areas (below) to assist us in selecting an appropriate session for your presentation. Indicate your first, second, and third choices.

8. Student presentation. Indicate whether the presentation will be given by a student (regardless of whether the student is a candidate for a student award).

9. Session chair. Indicate whether you are willing to chair the session in which you will be presenting (chair own), a session in which you will not be presenting (chair other), or none.

10. Comments. List any necessary comments pertaining to your abstract submission, including any special scheduling requests.

11. Contact. Provide the name of the contact person for correspondence, including notification of abstract acceptance and program position. Include the contact person’s complete mailing address and country. Also provide an e-mail address and telephone number, including the country and city codes.

12. Visual aid(s) needed. Indicate whether your presentation will be made using a PowerPoint projector, carousel projector, overhead projector, or other.

Topic Areas. The following general topic areas will be used to place your abstract in an appropriate session.

- Conservation capacity building
- Education and outreach
- Landscape ecology
- Spatial ecology and conservation
- Biogeography
- Community ecology
- Population viability analysis
- Population dynamics
- Alien and invasive species
- Restoration ecology
- Disturbance ecology
- Wetland ecology
- Aquatic ecology
- Marine conservation
- Grassland / prairie ecology
- Savanna and tropical forest ecology
- Savanna and tropical forest conservation
- Conservation genetics
- Conservation medicine
- Inventory and monitoring

- Ecosystem management: theory and practice
- Recovery of endangered species
- Risk assessment and uncertainty
- Conservation area planning, design, and management
- Grazing and agricultural issues
- Indigenous knowledge and conservation
- Economic and social context of biological conservation
- Science and policy in conservation
- Scientists and managers: bridging the gap
- Conservation issues concerning people
- Conservation issues concerning plants
- Conservation issues concerning fish
- Conservation issues concerning amphibians and reptiles
- Conservation issues concerning birds
- Conservation issues concerning invertebrates
- Conservation issues concerning mammals
- Conservation issues concerning urban areas
- Other _____

Special Characters and Formatting

Abstracts submitted electronically via the meeting Web site are limited to ASCII text format. Please use the following codes to indicate the use of special formatting and symbols within the abstract. Replace special symbols, such as Greek characters, with their text equivalent whenever possible. If the abstract contains other special formatting or symbols, such as accented characters or mathematical symbols, e-mail Daniella Mota at scb2005@unb.br for further instructions.

FORMAT/ CHARACTER	EXAMPLE	SUBMISSION EXAMPLE
italics	<i>Salix nigra</i>	<i>Salix nigra</i>
underline	<u>Book Title</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
superscript	km ²	km²
subscript	CO ₂	CO₂
degree	°	<degree>
em dash	—	
en dash	–	<en>
copyright	©	<copyright>
registered	®	<registered>
trademark	™	<trademark>
plus or minus	±	<+/->
greater than or equal	≥	<great/equal>
less than or equal	≤	<less/equal>
tilde	~	<tilde>
per thousand	‰	<perthousand>

STUDENT AWARD CANDIDATES

Student award candidates must submit two abstracts. One should be formatted according to the instructions given above and submitted online by **23 January 2005**. In addition, an extended abstract (3-5 paragraphs, preferably including 3-5 tables or figures) must be submitted to Alan Thornhill at athornhill@conbio.org no later than **13 March 2005**. The abstract should be attached as a Microsoft Word or ASCII text file, and the subject line of the e-mail should read “Extended Abstract for SCB 2005.”

ABSTRACT EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE #1

Either Oral or Poster

Evans, Ben J., Jatna Supriatna, Noviar Andayani, Mohammed Iqbal Setiadi, David C. Cannatella, DON J. MELNICK. Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, 1200 Amsterdam Avenue, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 USA, djm7@columbia.edu (BJE, DJM). Section of Integrative Biology, Patterson Laboratories, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712, USA (BJE, DCC). Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Studies, FMIPA, University of Indonesia, Depok, Java 16424, Indonesia (NA, MIS, JS).

MONKEYS AND TOADS DEFINE AREAS OF GENETIC ENDEMISM ON THE ISLAND OF SULAWESI

Preventing rapid biodiversity loss requires efficient allocation of conservation efforts within hotspots – those areas where concentrations of endemic species clash with unusually high levels of human activity. One hotspot, Wallacea, encompasses Sulawesi, the Lesser Sunda Islands, and the Moluccas. Sulawesi itself is too large to protect, so designing conservation areas requires our understanding of patterns of endemism within it. Superficially, these would seem to be idiosyncratic with, for example, seven allopatric species of macaques (*Macaca*) geographically overlapping one widespread species of toad, *Bufo celebensis*. Here we refute this hypothesis, using genetic methods to show that the geographic locations of intraspecific toad clades correspond almost exactly to the ranges of monkey species. These congruent biogeographical patterns define seven separate areas of genetic endemism that are likely shared by other Sulawesi endemics. Further protective measures are necessary in these areas to conserve the highly partitioned and unique biodiversity on this island. Our wider implication is that multiple molecular phylogeographic analyses of unrelated taxa may help resolve apparent contradictions in patterns of endemism, thus greatly improving the efficiency of conservation actions.

Conservation genetics; biogeography; conservation area planning, design, and management

Chair own

Don J. Melnick, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), 1200 Amsterdam Avenue, MC 5557, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 USA; djm7@columbia.edu; 212-854-8182

If oral, using PowerPoint projector

EXAMPLE #2

Oral

BENNETT, ELIZABETH, John G. Robinson, Heather Eves. Wildlife Conservation Society, 2300 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10468 USA (ELB, JGR), liz@lizbennett.org. Bushmeat Crisis Task Force, 8403 Colesville Road Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA (HEE).

THE SCALE OF HUNTING AND WILD MEAT TRADE IN TROPICAL FORESTS TODAY

For millennia, tropical forest peoples have been hunting for their food. Recent changes such as loss of forest and increasing access to remaining areas, increasing human population densities, increasing use of modern technologies, and increasing commercialization of hunting have led to rapid increases in hunting rates. Whether the meat is eaten by the forest hunter and his family, or by the town consumer, total consumption of wildlife is huge. In Sarawak, the Brazilian Amazon and central Africa, estimated annual harvests of wild meat are approximately 23,500 tons, 67,000-164,000 tons, and 1-3.4 million tons respectively. The productivity of tropical forests for wild meat is low, and offtake rates exceed this in many areas. For example, in central Africa, wildlife is being extracted from the forest at more than six times the sustainable rate. Hence, wildlife populations have been greatly depleted in forests throughout the tropics, and in many areas vulnerable species have been extirpated. Pilot projects show that local solutions are feasible, but major changes in awareness, commitment and the wider policy arena are critical if wildlife populations throughout much of the tropics are to be conserved, and if local people are not to face potential nutritional and cultural degradation.

Economic and social context of biological conservation;
Other: bushmeat trade

Chair none

Elizabeth Bennett, Wildlife Conservation Society, 2300 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10468 USA; liz@lizbennett.org; 718-220-5100

Overhead projector

For More Information

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www.conservationbiology.org/2005

Announcements

Nominations Sought for Mammal Conservation Awards

In 2002, the American Society of Mammalogists established two conservation awards to recognize outstanding contributions to the conservation of mammals and their habitats. The Aldo Leopold Award is awarded to a well-established individual who has made a lasting scientific contribution to the conservation of mammals and their habitats. Previous Aldo Leopold Award recipients were E.O. Wilson (2003) and R.A. Mittermeier (2004). The William T. Hornaday Award is awarded to a current undergraduate or graduate student who has made a significant scientific contribution as a student to the conservation of mammals and their habitats. The previous Hornaday Award winner was Brent Sewall (2004).

The recipient of each award will have contributed substantially to (1) conservation of one or more mammalian species, subspecies, or populations, (2) conservation of mammalian assemblages and communities, and/or (3) advancing the field of conservation biology through focal research on mammals. Those contributing to the conservation of land and/or marine mammals are eligible for consideration. We interpret “contribution” broadly to include (1) scientific research or political activism that has resulted in the preservation of an imperiled species, (2) development of protective management recommendations, (3) acquisition of new knowledge regarding the conservation status or causes for declines of mammalian species or populations, (4) protection of significant mammalian habitat, or (5) promotion of the conservation of mammals through public education.

All persons are invited to submit nominations for these awards. For each award, the nomination packet should include

1. A brief narrative (two pages maximum) that introduces and describes the conservation activities of the nominee
2. A list of relevant journal articles, government and NGO reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials that chronicle and corroborate the conservation-related activities of the nominee
3. Contact information for the nominator and nominee
4. Supporting material.

Aldo Leopold Award—include the three pieces of corroborative literature that most succinctly and directly describe the nominee’s contributions to mammalian conservation. *William T. Hornaday Award*—include letters of recommendation from two individuals familiar with the nominee’s conservation activities. One of these letters must be from the student’s research advisor.

Send completed nomination packets by 15 March 2005 to Steven Sheffield, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030, USA, srsheffield@att.net, (301) 593-6251.

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged. For further information, please see www.mammalogy.org/committees/index.asp. Recipients of these awards will be announced during the banquet at the annual ASM meeting.

Funding

The California Bay–Delta Authority Science Program seeks to invest up to US\$20 million in projects that develop new knowledge about how water use and management activities interact with and affect key aquatic species and environmental processes across spatial and temporal scales. The geographic areas of interest are the San Francisco Bay Estuary and the Bay–Delta System (California, USA). For detailed information, see <https://solicitation.calwater.ca.gov> or call (877) 408-9310.

The University of Florida’s Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation announces the 2005 Dexter Fellowship Program in Tropical Conservation Biology. The goal of the Dexter Fellowship Program is to enhance the conservation of biodiversity by supporting the training and research of outstanding graduate students from tropical countries in which the needs and opportunities for biological conservation are greatest. The Dexter Fellowship Program will support a master’s level graduate student at the University of Florida beginning August 2005. Applications are due by 15 February 2005. For information and application instructions see www.wec.ufl.edu/academics/grad/PSTC/dexter_fellows.htm.

Educational Opportunity

Denver Botanic Gardens and the United States Botanic Garden will hold a new Applied Plant Conservation Training Program 6–17 June 2005. The program will feature seminars and workshops taught in part by scientists from the Center for Plant Conservation, who will join national leaders in plant conservation, ecology, and botanic garden management for a hands-on exploration of principles and techniques used in research, documentation, conservation, and reintroduction of threatened plants. A paid research internship will follow for selected participants. Admission is limited and competitive. Application deadline is 1 March 2005. For more details see www.usbg.gov/education/Certificate_Plant_Conservation.cfm.

Bibliographies Available

A series of bibliographies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides a comprehensive review of the current literature covering conservation programs, including the research needed to improve practices (www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/ceapbibs.html). The bibliographies were prepared in support of USDA’s Conservation Effects Assessment Project by the Water Quality Information Center of USDA’s National Agricultural Library. They offer more than 2700 citations, many with abstracts and links to online documents. Four volumes are available: *Environmental Effects of USDA Conservation Programs* (www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/ceap01.html), *Implementing Agricultural Conservation Practices: Barriers and Incentives* ([ceap02.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/ceap02.html)), *Data and Modeling for Environmental Credit Trading* ([ceap03.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/ceap03.html)), and *Agricultural Conservation Practices and Related Issues: Reviews of the State of the Art and Research Needs* ([ceap04.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/ceap04.html)).

New Publication

The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company announces the release of *Vernal Pools: Natural History and Conservation* by Elizabeth Colburn. The book is a comprehensive synthesis of the natural history, ecology, and conservation of the seasonally wet pools that occur throughout the formerly glaciated region of eastern North America. The book is available in both hardback and paperback, with 72 illustrations and color plates. A 66-page appendix identifies all animals that have been reported from vernal pools of the region and describes their habitat requirements, geographic distribution, and life history. For more information, see www.mwpubco.com/vernalpools.htm or telephone (800) 233-8787.

Freshwater Conservation Meeting

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation's tenth annual spring symposium, *New Currents in Conserving Freshwater Systems*, will be held 7–8 April 2005 at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, USA. This forum for scientists and conservation practitioners will highlight recent successful initiatives in freshwater conservation, discuss cutting-edge ideas and tools, and investigate how and where these innovations might be implemented on the ground. The symposium will showcase projects that are rooted in the best available science, integrate across scientific fields, and link science with other disciplines. This cross-disciplinary integration will generate a fertile landscape for discussing the way forward in freshwater conservation. The symposium is sponsored by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional funding is provided by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, The Nature Conservancy, and the American Fisheries Institute. For more information or to register visit <http://cbc.amnh.org> or telephone (212) 769-5200. To receive updates, e-mail biodiversity@amnh.org. A limited number of posters will be accepted. Poster topics must relate to the symposium's general theme but are not limited geographically. Case studies are encouraged. For abstract submission guidelines, e-mail biodiversity@amnh.org. Submission deadline is 14 January 2005.

Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter is published quarterly. To submit materials or request permission to reprint articles contact the Editor: Erica Fleishman, Center for Conservation Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-5020, USA, (650) 725-9914, FAX (650) 723-5920, efleish@stanford.edu. Decisions concerning publication rest with the Editor.

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Johnsingh, from page 1

I had close encounters with species such as Russell's viper (*Vipera russelli*), common cobra (*Naja naja*), gaur (*Bos gaurus*), elephant, and tiger. The Reserve also is full of minute ticks. As a result, by the end of the two-year study, my body became pitted with numerous itching black dots as if I had a serious attack of chicken pox.

During this study and afterwards, I met several eminent individuals who encouraged me to pursue a career in wildlife research and conservation. Salim Ali, the birdman of India, with whom I later worked briefly, was among them. Whenever Ali met me while I was studying dholes, he would say, "Johnsingh, I am happy that you are still alive!" I also spent a few days in the Reserve with Val Geist, then from the University of Calgary, Canada. A leading authority on ungulates, Geist had come to India to assist one of Madhav Gadgil's students at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, with behavioral studies on chital (*Axis axis*). In Geist I found a passionate wildlifer. He would say, "Johnsingh, let us freeze among the rocks and observe animals."

At Bandipur, I was fortunate to meet Devra Kleiman and the late John F. Eisenberg, then from the Smithsonian Institution. Eisenberg, the foremost authority on mammals, saw in me a raw wildlife biologist. In 1980, he arranged a fellowship for me at the Conservation Research Center at Front Royal, Virginia, a facility owned by the Smithsonian Institution. Here, my post-doctoral research supervisor was John Seidensticker, an expert on puma (*Felis concolor*), leopard (*P. pardus*), and tiger. Seidensticker continues to be my guru and mentor. While at the Conservation Research Center, I met George Schaller, one of the world's greatest wildlife biologists. Schaller, who had read my thesis on dholes, advised me that after I returned to India, I should not end up in a university teaching 90% of my time. I have tried to live up to his advice.

I returned to India in 1981 and J.C. Daniel helped me with a job as the Project Scientist on their Asian Elephant Project. I joined the Wildlife Institute of India in 1985. Since then, my students and I have studied several large mammal species such as Asian elephant, Asian lion (*Panthera leo persica*), tiger, sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Himalayan ibex (*Capra ibex sibirica*), goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*), Nilgiri tahr (*Hemitragus hylocrius*), Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*) and grizzled giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*). As a result of this varied experience I represent IUCN (World Conservation Union) on their Caprinae, Cat, Canid, Asian Elephant, and Bear specialist groups. My students and I also have carried out several projects on birds. Our research findings have contributed to establishment of Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in the southern Western Ghats. Our work has been used to inform relocation of pastoral gujjars, who were destroying wildlife habitat with their numerous buffaloes, from portions of Rajaji National Park in the foothills of the Himalaya; these actions have stimulated the recovery of wildlife in the Park. We helped to identify a potential home for establishment of a second population of Asiatic lions, which face an uncertain future because they occur

only in one location. Further, our research has contributed to development of a Vision Document for tiger conservation in the Terai Arc Landscape, stretching from forests west of Yamuna River to Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar.

Between April and December 1994, under the United Nations Development Programme and Viet Nam Global Environment Facility Project, I conducted training programs and prepared training manuals for protected area forest guards and protected area managers in Viet Nam. I have also taught Smithsonian Wildlife Conservation and Management Training Programs in China and India, and trained wildlife personnel in Bhutan in methods to evaluate depredation on livestock by dholes. Over the years, my field research has enabled me to publish 71 scientific papers and 81 popular articles on wildlife conservation. I am in the process of co-editing, with Nima Manjrekar, *The Mammals of South Asia*. This book will contain 68 chapters on different species and groups of mammals contributed by 77 authors from India and abroad. George Schaller has written the Foreword for the book. Based on my popular articles written from 1972 onwards, the book *On Jim Corbett's Trail and Other Tales From Tree-tops*, published by Permanent Black, New Delhi, was released in March 2004. This book covers 15 of my popular articles. Universities Press and Orient Longman, Hyderabad, has agreed to publish the mammal book and bulk of the rest of my articles in the form of a book, *The Ramblings of a Naturalist*.

At Wildlife Institute of India in Dehra Dun, where I work now as Dean of the Faculty of Wildlife Sciences, I have contributed to the training of more than 300 forest officers from India and southeast Asia, many of whom manage protected areas across southeast Asia. These officers and students are an invaluable part of the force behind the conservation programs that try to safeguard the biodiversity and ecosystem values of southeast Asia for the benefit of mankind.

A.J.T. Johnsingh received a 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology for his dedication to improving the quality of wildlife science and conservation in south Asia. Johnsingh catalyzed conservation efforts by employing trained field biologists to work with managers in government departments, ensuring the

translation of new information into applied field conservation. Many of his papers on mammals in India are the only source of information on these species; his work has improved protection for species and ecosystems. He has inspired and motivated a generation of wildlife biologists and managers.

Plan early, linger late! Travel tips for SCB's 2005 annual meeting in Brasília

SCB2005, from page 1

(202) 293-9278 or (800) 633-8822, FAX (202) 466-2884, www.worldtravelservice.com, matthews@worldtravelservice.com.

Visa Requirements

Citizens of many countries, including the United States, require visas for entry into Brazil. The visa must be issued before you travel—in other words, you cannot expect to obtain a visa at the airport. Brazil has adopted a reciprocity policy: foreigners entering Brazil are treated in the same manner as Brazilians traveling abroad. The policy is implemented on a country-by-country basis. To check whether you will require a visa, see www.scb2005.unb.br/tabela.htm. If you will require a visa, please contact the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate General in your home country. A comprehensive list of consulates is available at www.mre.gov.br/ingles/endereco/consulados.asp. If your country does not have Brazilian diplomatic representation, contact the Consulate General in New York (www.brazilny.org, consulado@brazilny.org) to find out best way to apply for a visa.

Applications for visas must be submitted in person, not by mail. If necessary, you may use the services of a visa agency. You must enter Brazil within 90 days of issuance of the visa. Brazil recommends that you do not apply for a visa earlier than 60 days before travel. The processing time for most visas is 48 hours.

The requirements for business visas and tourist visas are different. If the primary purpose of your travel is to attend the annual meeting—even if you also will be traveling for enjoyment—you probably will need to apply for a business visa. Nevertheless, it is possible to tour Brazil with a business visa. Please contact the Consulate General for more information.

Requirements for a **business visa** include the following (for complete information, contact the Consulate General).

1. A passport valid for a minimum of six months from the date of intended arrival in Brazil.
2. A Visa Application Form signed by the passport holder.
3. One passport-type photograph (not a snapshot).
4. Letter (on letterhead) from the applicant's employer stating the employee's name and title, tenure of employment, the activities to be performed in Brazil, and the duration of stay.
5. If the applicant is self-employed, an additional letter, containing financial references, from his or her bank.
6. Visa fee of US\$60 in cash or by money order.
7. For United States citizens, a processing fee of US\$100.

Additional requirements for a **tourist visa** include a copy of a round trip ticket / itinerary or a statement from a travel agency containing the confirmed itinerary.

Vaccinations

Brazil recommends immunization against yellow fever when traveling to Acre, Amazonas, Amapá, Federal District (Brasília DF), Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins. Yellow fever vaccinations are required for travelers who have visited Brazil during the past 90 days or who will visit any of the following countries before entering Brazil: Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Venezuela.

Children between 3 months and 6 years are required to present certification that they have been immunized against polio.

To find out more about recommended immunizations and medications, especially for field trips, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site, www.cdc.gov/.

See you in Brasília!

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