About The WFVZ

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research institution. Our mission is to obtain, protect, and manage ornithological collections in a manner that ensures their accessibility to researchers, educators, students, and the public, and to ensure that the materials are used in projects that contribute to the conservation of the world's wild bird species.

The collections of the WFVZ are composed of more than 225,000 sets of bird eggs representing approximately 4,000 species, more than 20,000 nests, more than 56,000 bird study skins, and a library of over 7,000 books and monographs on birds and natural history. The library also houses more than 400 bird and natural history journal serials, and a large collection of the field notes of collectors and scientists.

The materials are housed in a 22,000 square-foot building in Camarillo, California, and the Foundation is open to researchers and members of the public by appointment.

Our Goals

The fundamental goals of the Foundation are to:

- Acquire, integrate, and preserve ornithological collections so that they can contribute to the conservation of the birds of the world.
- Provide data to avian researchers, educators, and scientific artists around the world.
- Educate the public through tours, classes, and material loans.
- Conduct original research on birds.
- Publish findings that reflect the WFVZ’s goals, programs, and activities.

The WFVZ has contributed information to thousands of research projects since our inception. Its resources often play key roles in understanding diverse topics such as avian systematics and evolution; the effects of environmental contamination, such as through eggshell thinning; and changes in bird numbers, distributions, and habitat use.

How are We Funded?

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit public charity. Thus, it is not supported by the state or a University. Instead, the WFVZ relies on charitable donations and gifts from individuals and foundations, and grants and contracts for specific research projects. We also have a membership program, through which individuals and families can partner with us. If you like the Foundation's mission, programs, and beautiful facility, we hope you will consider making a donation so we can continue expanding our services! All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information on our programs, or to become a member or Volunteer, please contact us. Thank you for your interest!

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

Ed N. Harrison, Founder

Board of Directors:

Kathy Harrison Killelea, President

William G. Langford, Treasurer

Kamelia Algiers, Secretary

Dr. Stephen Rothstein, Chair of the Scientific Panel

Ed Tarvyd, Director

Science and Administration:

Linnea S. Hall, Ph.D., Executive Director - CV- contact

René Corado, Collections Manager - contact

Jennifer Brown-Watson, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Adam Searcy, Curatorial Assistant

Eddie A. Corado, Preparation Assistant

Note: ¡Nuestros empleados son bilingues!

Scientific Panel:

Dr. Stephen Rothstein, Chair

Dr. Steve Beissinger

Harry Carter

Dr. Fritz Hertel

Walt Sakai

NSF Data Entry Technicians

Alaina Benham-Lipp

Janet Garcia

Rebecca Gridley

Lloyd Lustina

Lindsey Mercer

Nathanael Moinca

Ivett Plascencia

Bryan Roth

Elizabeth Sayer

C. J. Walsh

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Volunteers and Interns:

Bill Anderson

Connie Bastow

Ashley Cleveland

René Corado Jr.

Peggy Ellis

Kitty Frallic

Jean Hulberg

Bill Hulberg

Dexter Kelly

Heather Medvitz

Siddharth Mehrotra

Linda Reynolds

Margaret E.Stevens

Museum Associates:

Dana Gardner, Artist

N. John Schmitt, Preparator/Artist

Mamoru Suzuki, Artist (Japan)

Research Associates:

Bertin W. Anderson, Ph.D., Ornithologist

Peter H. Bloom, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist

Dan Cooper, Avian Ecologist

Harold Greeney, Ph.D., Ornithologist (Ecuador)

Johan Ingels, D.Sc., Ornithologist (Belgium)

Allan Mee, Ph.D., Ornithologist (Ireland)

Joel E. Pagel, Ph.D., Ornithologist

Kristen LaBonte, UCSB

Noel F. R. Snyder, Ph.D., Ornithologist

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