



BOTSTIBER INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE FERTILITY CONTROL

Newsletter
Winter 2023

BIWFC-Supported Reproductive Management Course

The BIWFC partially funded and will participate in the European Association of Zoos & Aquaria's Reproductive Management Course. This online course will provide an overview of what reproductive management is and how it may be brought into management and veterinary decisions to improve the sustainability of animal management. At the end of the course, participants will understand how to practically apply reproductive management in captivity and in the field. This course is aimed to professionals responsible for animal management in captivity and in the field. Participants should be affiliated with zoos and aquaria, academia, or research. Participants should have a baseline knowledge of animal management and reproduction.

Participants will gain access to pre-recorded lectures and the e-learning module weekly starting April 23, 2023. Participants will also be invited to a weekly live webinar with the tutors to further discuss the content. Weekly webinars will begin on May 3, 2023 at 1pm BST.

You can register for the course using [this form](#). If you encounter any problems, please contact isabel.callealta@eaza.net.

Upcoming Webinar Schedule

As part of our mission to serve as a resource for all aspects of wildlife fertility control, the BIWFC will continue to host webinars in the new year. Webinars include a presentation and live question-and-answer period. Our schedule includes:

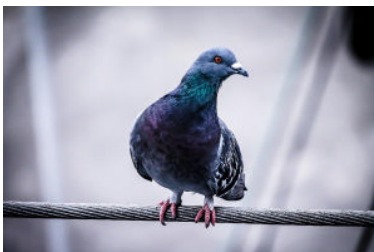


February 16 at 11am EST

"Contraceptive hormones for rodent management"

Steven Belmain - Professor of Ecology, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom

[Register HERE](#)



March 14 at 11am EST

"Fertility control for pigeons in urban areas"

Carlos González Crespo - Post-Doctoral Researcher, Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance, University of California, Davis

[Register HERE](#)

All previous webinars are available on our website and can be found [here](#), including our most recent webinars:



[*Developing an oral contraceptive to manage the UK's invasive grey squirrel populations*](#)



[*Black-tail deer in the city: A scientific approach to population control using immunocontraception*](#)

TWS Conference Presentations Available

The BIWFC and The National Wildlife Research Center organized a symposium titled Fertility Control to Mitigate Conflicts and Manage Wild Horse and Burro Populations on Public Lands in the U.S., at The Wildlife Society's (TWS) 29th Annual Conference held in Spokane, Washington, USA from November 7 – 10, 2022.

The following presentations are now available [online](#):



[**Wild Horse and Burro Management 101 \(Warning: Proceed with Caution!\)**](#) presented by Celeste Carlisle, *Return to Freedom, National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board*



[**Free- Roaming Equids and the American Mind; The Role of Strategic Public Engagement in Achieving Healthy Herds on Healthy Rangelands**](#) presented by Terry Messmer, *The Berryman Institute, Utah State University, Logan, UT*



[**The Contraceptive Efficacy of a Self-Assembling Intra-Uterine Device and its Potential to Control Fertility in Free-Roaming Equids**](#) presented by Karl Hoopes, *Utah State University*



[**Remote-Delivery and Efficacy of ZonaStat-H in Wild Burros of the Black Mountain Herd Management Area in Northwest Arizona**](#) presented by Stephanie Boyles Griffin, *HSUS*

Interview with Russell Hill

The BIWFC [interviewed](#) Russell Hill, professor of evolutionary anthropology at



Durham University, United Kingdom. Hill discussed his work developing a primate-specific bait delivery system in South Africa, a project funded by the BIWFC grant program. Watch the full video [here](#).

New Ovistop Fact Sheet

A new fact sheet on [Ovistop](#), an avian oral contraceptive, is now available on our website.



BIWFC Europe Update from the Director

This winter, Dr. Massei was dedicated to preparing two manuscripts, now submitted to scientific journals. The first one, just accepted for publication by *Animals*, provided a European perspective on fertility control for wildlife, and highlighted reasons for European Member States to consider investing in research in this field. With Europe becoming “overcrowded,” referring to both people and wildlife species, sharing space and resources is increasingly challenging. Fertility control could be implemented as a tool, particularly if we invest in developing oral contraceptives, to coexist with wildlife.

The second co-authored paper focused on rodent fertility control. This paper proposed a framework to guide researchers and stakeholders planning to use fertility control to mitigate the economic or environmental impacts of rodents. Our guidelines describe the questions that should be asked and the steps to be taken when considering contraceptives for broad-scale rodent management. As I was reading the literature on human-wildlife conflicts, I realized the extent of the global impact of some local wildlife management choices. A good example is the widespread use of anticoagulant rodenticides, which creates ongoing global conservation concerns for raptors feeding on rodents. In countries that are on migratory bird routes, the impact of local use of anticoagulant rodenticides may extend well beyond the regions that apply these substances, which makes developing safe and effective oral contraceptives even more important.

While publishing in scientific journals lends authority to a manuscript, not least because the peer review process ensures that anonymous reviewers have approved the final version, the readership of scientific papers is always limited to a relative small circle of researchers and scientists. This is why it is crucial we integrate writing scientific papers with webinars, interviews, workshops and talks at national and international conferences.

For this reason, we are delighted to have been invited to run a workshop on Challenges for Fertility Control in the Wild at the [Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference](#) that will be hosted in Spain in spring 2023. I have also been invited to give a keynote address at that [XIII European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference](#) in Florence, in summer 2023. The conference in Florence will also have a whole session of 5-6 talks dedicated to wildlife fertility control, so we have a lot on our “European plate.”

I look forward to sharing the highlights from these events.

Giovanna

Dr. Giovanna Massei
January 2023

Voices from Europe

As a part of our mission to advance the use of effective, sustainable fertility control methods to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence worldwide, our [BIWFC Europe webpage](#) includes interviews and educational short videos of European perspectives of fertility control. This includes the newly added [Fertility Control in Wild Pigs and Parakeets](#) and [Gene Drive Grey Squirrels: A Research Film](#).

Larry Green Elected President of Animal Grantmakers' Board of Directors

Larry Green, BIWFC's Outreach Coordinator, was elected to a term as President of the Board of Directors of [Animal Grantmakers](#), a nationwide affinity group of funders devoted to animal protection and welfare. Larry, in his second year on the Board, served as Co-Chair of Animal Grantmakers' 2021 annual conference. BIWFC became a member of Animal Grantmakers in 2020.

MojoStreaming Interview

[MojoStreaming](#) recently interviewed Stephanie Boyles Griffin, Science and Policy Director of the BIWFC. MojoStreaming is dedicated to wildlife and aims to motivate their audience to safeguard the environment. The full interview can be watched [here](#).

Wildlife Fertility Control Repository

The [BIWFC Repository](#) aims to be the resource for all research related to wildlife fertility control. Click [here](#) to view the collection of over 100 papers.

If you authored or co-authored a peer-reviewed article related to wildlife fertility control and would like your work to be included, please forward the PDF articles to biwfc@botstiber.org. We will archive your work after reviewing the publishers' policy and guidelines.

IMPORTANT DATES

International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict &

Coexistence, March 30 - April 1

The BIWFC plans to attend and present at the [International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence](#), hosted by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force in Oxford, UK. Giovanna Massei, Director of BIWFC Europe, will present on "The Other Side of Human-Wildlife Conflicts: A Global Perspective on Fertility Control to Manage Overabundant Wildlife."

The Wildlife Society's British Columbia Chapter & Canadian Section Joint Conference, March 30 - April 1

The BIWFC will sponsor the [Wildlife Society British Columbia Chapter & Canadian Section Joint Conference](#) held in Victoria, British Columbia. With the theme of "*Our Future Together*," it will concentrate on bringing together students and professionals from across the country to meet, interact, and share information, about research, current and changing issues, and emerging challenges.

20th Wildlife Damage Management Conference, April 17-20

The BIWFC will sponsor the [20th Wildlife Damage Management Conference](#) held in Logan, Utah. Hosted by the Wildlife Society's Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, the theme of this conference is "*Entering New Territory - Navigating Wildlife Interactions in a post-Covid Society*."

Pathways: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference, May 31 - June 3

The BIWFC will exhibit and sponsor a session titled "Human Dimensions of Fertility Control to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts" at the [Pathways 2023 Conference](#) in Fort Collins, Colorado. The theme of this year's conference will be "*Managing Wildlife in an Era of Mutualism*."

International Urban Wildlife Conference, June 4-7

Hosted by the Urban Wildlife Working Group of The Wildlife Society, the [2023 International Urban Wildlife Conference](#) will be held in Washington, D.C. The theme this year is "*Communicating our science to the public, the media and policymakers while uplifting diverse voices*."

EAZA Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference, June 7-10

The BIWFC will host a workshop in Valencia, Spain at [The Zoo & Wildlife Health Conference](#) on Wednesday June 7 titled "[Challenges with Fertility Control in the Wild](#)." Led by Giovanna Massei, BIWFC Europe Director, and Yedra Feltrer-Rambaud, veterinarian and member of the European College of Zoological Medicine, this workshop will allow attendees to analyze criteria used to consider the use of fertility control to resolve human-wildlife conflict.

European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, August 28 - September 1

The BIWFC Europe Director, Giovanna Massei, was invited to chair a session on fertility control at the [13th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference](#) held in Florence, Italy. The conference will also have a full session dedicated to wildlife fertility control, with 5-6 invited oral contributions. This conference series aims to bring together experts in vertebrate management and conservation, allow them to share their expertise & the latest advances, and increase worldwide collaboration.

IN THE NEWS

Integrated Red Squirrel Management

The UK's grey squirrel fertility control program will soon enter field trials. Concurrently, the Red Squirrel Survival Trust is encouraging gardeners to plant species that will help feed native red squirrels. Read more [here](#).

Update on Canada's Deer Fertility Control Program

[The Vancouver Island Free Daily](#) provided an update to the ongoing deer fertility control project conducted by the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society and the University of Victoria in Oak Bay, British Columbia, Canada. While there will be no treatments this year, data will continue to be collected to evaluate the how the population is responding.

Pilot Sterilization Project in New Jersey

[CentralJersey.com](#) reported that the Princeton Council contracted White Buffalo Inc. to implement a pilot sterilization program for the town's deer population. Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view more articles

STAFF

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