

News from the Europe Office

The Europe office had a very busy spring. BIWFC Managing Director, Monique Principi and Advisory Committee Chair Stephanie Boyles Griffin visited the UK to attend the International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence, held in March in Oxford. In addition to the conference in Oxford, we spent several days in the north of England where we had the opportunity to meet one of our grantees, Professor Russell Hill, at Durham University. Russell gave us a tour of the university which included a very impressive XI century castle. He also gathered a group of students and researchers for a lively discussion on wildlife research at Durham.



The following day found us at the University of York, where we met the Head of the Department of Environment and Geography, Professor Roland Gerhels, and Professor Piran White, Deputy Director of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability Directorate. Piran's past includes publishing a paper on fertility control as a means of controlling bovine tuberculosis in European badger



populations. We discussed progress and the future for the Europe office and Piran gave us a guided tour of the university's impressive facilities. Joining us was the Director of the [UK Squirrel Accord](#), Ms. Kay Haw, who discussed with us common interests and future collaborations.

We spent the rest of the day with colleagues from Chester Zoo, Dr. Sue Walker, Head of Science, and Dr. Veronica (Ronnie) Cowl, Reproductive Biology Coordinator. [Chester Zoo Science Department](#) is a unique institution in Europe, as its research focuses on both biological and social sciences including animal behaviour and welfare, conservation, physiology and reproduction, population biology and social sciences. Ronnie recently designed the [Reproductive Management Open Online Course](#), an initiative that was launched in May 2023, aimed at professionals responsible for animal management. This course is proudly co-sponsored by the BIWFC that also contributed a lecture in the session dedicated to fertility control for free-living wildlife. The level of interest for this initiative has been impressive. To date more than 900 people have registered.



The 3-day conference in Oxford brought together 550 representatives from conservation organisations, academia, governments, businesses and local communities from six continents and 70 countries. This was organised following the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2022, which calls for countries to “effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.”

The conference, which ran along many parallel sessions, had a strong emphasis on human-wildlife conflicts in a conservation context, hence the majority of talks focused on iconic species such as large carnivores and elephants. We felt there was space for this conference to expand in the future, to include the many wildlife species that have economic and environmental impacts such as free-living horses, wild boar, rodents, deer, pigeons and non-native animals as well as other vertebrates and invertebrates. Our talk entitled [“The other side of human-wildlife conflicts: a global perspective on fertility control to manage overabundant wildlife”](#) had many questions and positive feedback. Importantly, BIWFC staff made many contacts and had impromptu productive meetings. We returned home tired but excited, having made new friends, renewed old acquaintances, and talked about the BIWFC mission with as many colleagues and stakeholders as possible. We will now build on these contacts to increase awareness of our work.

Happy Spring!
Giovanna
Dr. Giovanna Massei
April 2023

For more BIWFC Europe news check the [Europe](#) section of our website.

Wildlife Fertility Control Interactive Map



The BIWFC recently added an interactive [worldwide map](#) to its website that displays the geographic areas where wildlife fertility control projects are currently being implemented. It also provides the target species, the focus of the project, and a contact for more information. Users can interact with the [map](#) by zooming in and out, panning to different areas, and clicking on individual project markers to access more detailed information. The map can be used by wildlife managers, researchers, and the general public to gain a better understanding of the scope and impact of fertility control projects on wildlife populations around the world. *Check back often as we will continue to add new projects as they become available.*

Webinar Library

As part of our mission to serve as a resource for all aspects of wildlife fertility control, the BIWFC has an extensive library of webinar presentations which are available on our website and can be found [here](#), including our most recent webinars:



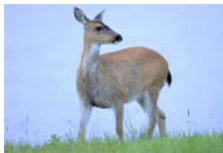
[Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) for the management of conflictive feral pigeon colonies, the Barcelona experience](#)
Carlos González Crespo



[Contraceptive hormones for rodent management](#)
Steven Belmain



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



[Black-tail deer in the city: A scientific approach to population control using immunocontraception](#)
Jason Fisher & Adam Hering

Staff Update

Rachel Soroka, the BIWFC Program Assistant since 2016, has left the BIWFC staff to become Manager of the Francisville Home for Smaller Animals in Radnor, PA. Rachel joined the Institute at its beginning and played an instrumental role in its growth and successes over the years. She was an integral part of the team and will be missed. We are excited for her new opportunity and know that she will bring the dedication, diligence, and camaraderie that we appreciated to her new role. We wish her all the best. Congratulations, Rachel!

PopEquus

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management announced the public release of *PopEquus*, a new modeling program designed to predict the potential outcomes of using various non-lethal methods to manage and protect wild horses roaming public lands. *PopEquus* provides realistic predictions that will help inform the use of various population-control methods to protect animal and land health from overpopulation. Read more about the modelling system [here](#).

USDA-WS Research Spotlight

Wildlife fertility control was highlighted in the USDA National Wildlife Research Center's [Innovative Solutions to Human-Wildlife Conflicts](#).

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.

- "Fertility Control for Wildlife: A European Perspective" ([2023](#)) *Animals*
- "Factors affecting bait uptake by the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and the future delivery of oral contraceptives" ([2023](#)) *Wildlife Research*
- "The status of fertility control for rodents - recent achievements and future directions" ([2021](#)) *Integrative Zoology*
- "Antifertility effects of levonorgestrel, quinestrol, and their mixture (EP-1) on plateau zokor in the Qinghai–Tibetan Plateau" ([2021](#)) *Integrative Zoology*
- "Efficacy of nicarbazin (Ovistop) in the containment and reduction of the populations of feral pigeons" ([2015](#)) *Veterinaria Italiana*

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 Updates

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

The BIWFC will exhibit and co-sponsor a session with the National Wildlife Research Center titled "Human Dimensions of Fertility Control to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts" on June 3 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*."

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 when considering the implementation 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 and a discussion with a panel of experts. 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

Rodent Fertility Control

BIWFC Europe Director, Giovanna Massei, was quoted in a *Time Magazine* article

discussing the human-wildlife conflicts of urban rat populations. The article explains how nonlethal methods of population control coupled with education will become the standard for eco-friendly rodent control. Read the article [here](#).

Call for Coexistence with Thai Elephants

The Bangkok Post highlighted the controversial issue of human-elephant conflict in Thailand. While elephants are a national symbol, they are faced with shrinking habitat and are causing conflict and even death with the locals. Follow this [link](#) to read how the government calls for a comprehensive approach, possibly including birth control.

Horse Management in Colorado

Craig Daily Post [reported](#) on the Sand Wash Basin wild horse management program being conducted in Colorado in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. This project is managing the horse population with fertility control while also monitoring overall health of the ecosystem.

Click [here](#) to view more articles

Staff

Monique Principi - Managing Director
Stephanie Boyles Griffin - Chair, Advisory Committee
Giovanna Massei - Director, BIWFC Europe
Rachel Soroka - Program Assistant
Rosalie Lombardo - Communications Officer
Lawrence Green - Outreach Coordinator
Carolyn Rauch - Manager, Meetings and Events
Daniel Fullam - Multimedia Production Specialist



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