

Personal:

I was born in Munich in 1968 where I grew up. Now I have two daughters that were born May 1999 (Annika) and March 2001 (Helena), and am married to Dr. Wesley Hochachka, Senior Research Associate at Cornell University, Laboratory of Ornithology.

I love singing, hiking, biking, reading to and playing with my kids, gardening, and interacting with interesting people from all over the world.

Research and Work Interests

My interests encompass aspects of conservation biology, evolutionary ecology, community ecology, ornithology, and climate change. More specifically, I have been working on local to global issues in conservation issues that will help reduce population declines of birds, specifically in grasslands and agro-ecosystems. Recently, I am focusing on education and outreach in the area of climate change, summarizing and critically reviewing the newest findings in climate change for my audiences.

Education

- 1994 – 1998 Ph.D. at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri
- 1987 – 1994 Undergraduate and graduate studies of biology at the Eberhardt-Karls University, Tübingen, Germany (Major: Zoology; Minors: Botany, Animal Physiology, and Geology)
- 1990 – 1991 Exchange student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 1987 High school graduation from the Maximilians-Gymnasium, Munich, Germany

Positions

- 2009 – today Temporary Research Assistant at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- 2008 – today Freelance Journalist for GlobalCom GMBH, Munich, Germany
- 2003 – today Visiting Scientist, Cornell University, Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA
- 2007 – 2008 Contract Ecologist for Environment Canada
- 2006 – 2007 Research Associate of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
- 2005 – 2008 Contract Ecologist for the National Audubon Society
- 2003 – 2004 Visiting Scientist, MPI for Ornithology, Vogelwarte Radolfzell, Radolfzell, Germany
- 1998 – 2003 Postdoctoral Fellow, State University of New York, College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry, Syracuse, New York

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Research

- 2005 – 08 Investigation of factors that influence the distribution and abundance of Sprague's Pipits and Baird's Sparrows on Grand River National Grassland, South Dakota, USA.
- 2006 – 07 Investigation of song patterns of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, Florida, USA.
- 2003 – 04 Analysis of ringing data for the Max-Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany.
- 1998 – 02 Postdoctoral research, identifying local, patch, and landscape factors influencing distribution and nesting success of prairie birds in Minnesota and South Dakota, USA.
- 1995 – 98 Ph.D. Research. Investigation of the effects of habitat fragmentation on density and nesting success of Dickcissels and Henslow's Sparrows in Missouri, USA.
- 1993 Diplomarbeit (German Master's equivalent). Investigation of the effects of fire-management on the distribution of Baird's Sparrows in North Dakota, USA.

Teaching experience

I have been a teaching assistant at the Eberhardt-Karls University in Tübingen, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Missouri (Systematics and Evolution, Invertebrate Morphology, General Ecology, and Introductory Biology for majors and non-majors). Responsibilities included leading discussions and laboratory sessions, leading field trips, and giving short laboratory lectures.

I am currently on the graduate committee of two MA students at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

I consider myself an environmental teacher, as my presentations aim at educating and stimulating discussions in my audience.

Climate change related activities

Since May 2007 I have taken a break from active research, and have volunteered my time trying to help inform and activate people by doing the following things:

- As part of my commitment to The Climate Project, I have given more than 100 presentations on climate change in both the US and Germany at various venues.
- I started 2 Sustainability Groups – one at the Lab of Ornithology (which recently was rewarded for its activities) and at my kid's elementary school in the US.
- I am writing articles for the Clean Energy Project (www.cleanenergy-project.de), and keep a Wiki (www.klimaschutz.pbwiki.com) to give my audience a starting point for background information on all aspects of climate change.
- I am attending meetings to improve my understanding of all aspects of climate change (Taellberg Forum, UN Conference in Poznan, Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen).
- I am organizing a training for teachers on matters of climate change and its solutions in cooperation with Prof. Mojib Latif at the IFM-Geomar for April 3, 2009.

Affiliations

Society for Conservation Biology, European Ornithologists' Union, Missouri Prairie Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz in Deutschland, Oxfam International, and MoveOn, Al Gore's Climate Project (www.theclimateproject.org).

Grants received

- 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 (\$ 5,000)
- 2007 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 (\$ 5,000)
- 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$15,000)
- 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 (\$ 12,000)
- 2006 South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (\$ 5,000)
- 2005 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6 (\$ 10,000)
- 2005 South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (\$ 4,500)
- 2005 American Bird Conservancy (\$3,000)
- 1997 Missouri Department of Conservation, Columbia, Research grant (\$32,000)
- 1996 Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, Research grant (\$2,000)
- 1996 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Research grant (\$4,600)
- 1996 Missouri Prairie Foundation, Research grant (\$1,000)
- 1996 Sigma Xi, Research grant (\$500)
- 1995 USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, Research grant (\$5,000)
- 1995 Missouri Prairie Foundation, Research grant (\$1,000)
- 1993 Tübinger Studentenstiftung, Germany, Travel grant (\$1,000).

Non-peer-reviewed publications

Since 2008 I have written more than 50 articles for the Clean Energy Project

Winter, M. 2007. Birds and global climate change. *BirdScope* 23:13.

Johnson, D. H., L. Igl, and M. Winter. 2007. Effects on breeding birds of seeding mixtures in planted grasslands. Report to the USFWS. Analyzed and written by M. Winter.

Johnson, D. H., L. Igl, M. Winter, and W. L. Hohman. 2007. Effect of wetland buffer size on grassland-nesting birds in the prairie pothole region. Report to the USFWS. Analyzed and written by M. Winter.

Peer-reviewed publications

- Hochachka, W.M., M. Winter, and R. Chariff. In Press. Sources of variation in singing probability of Florida Grasshopper Sparrows, and implications for design and analysis of auditory surveys. *Condor*.
- Pietz, J.P., D. A. Buhl, J. A. Shaffer, M. Winter, and D. H. Johnson. In Press. Influence of trees in the landscape on parasitism rates of grassland passerine nests in southeastern North Dakota.
- Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, and J. A. Shaffer. 2006. Does body size affect a bird's sensitivity to patch size and landscape structure? *Condor* 108:808-816
- Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, J. A. Shaffer, T. M. Donovan, and W. D. Svedarsky. 2006. Patch size and landscape effects on density and nesting success of grassland birds. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70:158-172.
- Greenberg, R., C. Elphick, J. C. Nordby, C. Gjerdrum, H. Spautz, G. Shriver, B. Schmelling, B. Olson, P. Marra, N. Nur, and M. Winter. 2006. Flooding and predation: Trade-offs in the nesting ecology of tidal-marsh sparrows. *Studies in Avian Biology* 32:96-109.
- Winter, M., J. A. Shaffer, D. H. Johnson, T. M. Donovan, W. D. Svedarsky, P. W. Jones, and B. R. Euliss. 2005a. Natural history of Le Conte's Sparrows in the northern tallgrass prairie. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 76:61-71.
- Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, and J. D. Shaffer. 2005b. Variability in vegetation effects on density and nesting success of grassland birds. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 69:185-197.
- Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, J. A. Shaffer, and W. D. Svedarsky. 2004. Nesting biology of three grassland passerines in the northern tallgrass prairie. *Wilson Bulletin* 116:211-223.
- Winter, M., S. Hawks, J. Shaffer, and D.H. Johnson. 2003. Guidelines for finding nests of passerine birds in tallgrass prairie. *Prairie Naturalist* 35:197-211.
- Johnson, D. H. And M. Winter. 2003. Planning for conservation: a tale of two models. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PSW – GTR 191.
- Herkert, J.R., D.L. Reinking, D.A. Wiedenfeld, M. Winter, J.L. Zimmerman, W.E. Jensen, E.J. Finck, R.R. Koford, D.H. Wolfe, S.K. Sherrod, M.A. Jenkins, J. Faaborg, and S.K. Robinson. 2003. Effects of prairie fragmentation on the nest success of breeding birds in the mid-continental United States. *Conservation Biology* 17:587-594.
- Johnson, D. H., S. Browder, and M. Winter. 2002. Grassland bird communities and environmental health: the role of landscape features. Pp. 589-596 in Rapport, Lasley, W., D. Rolston, O. Nielsen, C. Qualset, and A. Damania, editors. *Managing for Healthy Ecosystems*. CRC/Lewis Press.
- Winter, M., D. H. Johnson, and J. Faaborg. 2000. Evidence of edge effects on multiple levels in tallgrass prairie. *Condor* 102:256-266.
- Winter, M. 1999. Impacts of fire on Baird's Sparrow habitat in northern mixed-grass prairie. *Studies in Avian Biology* 19:171-177.
- Winter, M. 1999. Nesting behavior and nest success of Henslow's Sparrows and Dickcissels in southwestern Missouri prairie fragments. *Wilson Bulletin* 111:515-527.
- Winter, M., and J. Faaborg. 1999. Varying patterns of "area-sensitivity" in grassland-nesting birds. *Conservation Biology* 13:1324-1434.

Presentations on my research (last 5 years)

- August 2007. "Using continuous sound recordings to determine the probability of detecting birds." American Ornithologist's Union, Laramie, WY.
- August 2006. "Does sensitivity to patch size and landscape structure depend on body size?" Poster given at the International Ornithological Congress in Hamburg, Germany. Coauthors: D. H. Johnson and J. A. Shaffer.
- August 2006. Organization of and presentation at a roundtable discussion at the International Ornithological Congress on "Strategies for successful bird conservation in arable and grassland systems." Co-Organizer: Tony Morris, RSPB, UK.
- August 2005. "Can changes in age ratios explain declines in European passerine birds?" Coauthors: W. M. Hochachka, and W. Fiedler. European Ornithologists' Union, Strasbourg, France.
- December 2004. "How consistent are the effects of patch size and landscape composition on density and nesting success of grassland birds?" Coauthor: D. H. Johnson. International symposium on the ecology and conservation of steppe birds, Lleida, Spain.
- December 2004. "Conservation Reserve Program; a useful tool to preserve North-American grassland birds?" Coauthors: D. H. Johnson, L. Igl, and M. Morrison. International symposium on the ecology and conservation of steppe birds, Lleida, Spain.
- September 2004. "How consistent are the effects of patch size and landscape composition on density and nest success of grassland birds?" Coauthors: D. H. Johnson, J. A. Shaffer, W. D. Svedarsky, and T. M. Donovan. The Wildlife Society, Calgary, Canada.
- August 2003. "The need of replication in time and space." Coauthor: D. H. Johnson. Conference of the European Ornithologists' Union, Chemnitz, Germany.

Invited seminars on my research:

2007. University of Colorado, Ft. Collins. Conservation biology seminar series
2007. University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Conservation biology seminar series.
2006. University of Missouri, Columbia. Conservation biology seminar series..

Reviews

I have reviewed manuscripts for ornithological journals (Auk, Condor, Journal of Avian Biology, Wilson Bulletin, Journal of Field Ornithology), Conservation Biology, Journal for Applied Ecology, Journal of Wildlife Management, and grant proposals (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), and environmental impact statements.

I am currently on the editorial board of an international ornithological journal, the Condor, and am helping to edit the book "Global sustainability – a noble cause" for the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

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