

## William G. Conway: Curriculum Vitae

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**William G. Conway** is a zoologist and conservationist who began his career at the Saint Louis Zoo as a volunteer in 1945. After graduating from Washington University, he became zoo curator of birds and assistant to the director. In 1956, he became associate curator of ornithology at the New York Zoological Society's (NYZS's) Bronx Zoo and eventually became curator of ornithology, associate director (1960), zoo director (1961), general director (1966), and subsequently its president. He stepped down in 1999 after forty-three years with the NYZS and was named senior conservationist.

Under Conway, NYZS grew to include a major International Conservation division, conducting more than 350 scientific and conservation projects in fifty-three nations, based on a team of outstanding field scientists. The society's facilities expanded from the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, and Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences, to include New York's Central Park, Queens Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, the St. Catherines Wildlife Survival Center in Georgia, and several overseas research stations. Its animal health program enlarged to provide wildlife overseas veterinary research and training services, while its education program expanded to provide environmental curricula in all fifty US states and fifteen other nations. The society's magazine, *Wildlife Conservation*, grew to serve other zoos, and the society's membership increased from 3,300 to 115,000. In 1993, to reflect its conservation focus, the NYZS changed its name to Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

*Influence on zoos:* Conway played a major role in the current redevelopment of zoos as proactive conservation centers and gave scores of papers at zoo and other meetings on the need for zoo conservation efforts. He led American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) upgrading efforts, writing its first accreditation program—its widely copied Species Survival Program (SSP)—to sustain threatened species and zoo animal populations, and he founded its Field Conservation Program, which focuses zoos on in situ conservation.

*In New York:* Conway developed an exceptional team of zoo and field scientists, oversaw the development of more than twenty major New York zoo and aquarium exhibits, including the renewed Central Park, Queens, and Prospect Park zoos, the Aquarium's Sea Cliffs, the Bronx Zoo's JungleWorld, Wild Asia [Monorail], World of Birds, World of Darkness, Children's Zoo, Himalayan Highlands, and Ethiopian Baboon Highlands, and the innovative Congo Gorilla Forest, which gives its admission fees to the preservation of wildlife in their homelands. New departments included Exhibition and Graphic Arts.

*Conservation in the field:* More than fifty wildlife reserves were stimulated by NYZS/WCS projects during Conway's tenure, including programs in Africa, Asia, and South America. His personal efforts helped to establish more than a dozen wildlife reserves; national monuments and parks in Chile, Bolivia, the Falkland Islands, and especially in Argentine Patagonia. Conservation programs for flamingos, whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, guanacos, penguins, and other sea birds resulted, along with the support and training of local scientists and conservationists.



*Participation in conservation organizations:* Conway is a past president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and a current or past director of the American Conservation Association, Asa Wright Nature Centre (Trinidad), Caribbean Conservation Corporation, International Crane Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Global Conservation Network of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), IUCN Flamingo Specialist Group, Asesor para Fundación Patagonia Natural (Argentina), Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation, and a governor of the Society for Conservation Biology (of which he was a founder). He is also a past regional councillor of the IUCN and member of its Bureau, and he's a director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, World Wildlife Fund (United States), the National Audubon Society (NAS), the Edward John Noble Foundation, and the [Nixon] Griffis Foundation.

*Honors received:* Conway has received three honorary degrees, the Marlin Perkins Award of the AZA, the Heini Hediger Award of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the Gold Medal of WCS, "Commander of the Golden Ark" World Wildlife Fund (WWF) from Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Henry Shaw Medal of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Audubon Medal of the NAS, the Conservation Medal of the San Diego Zoological Society, the Saint Louis Zoo Conservation Award, the Peter Scott Medal of the Survival Service Commission of IUCN, a special award from the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), and the Distinguished Service Medal of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). In 2000, the AZA created an endowed Conway Chair of Conservation and Science to help lead its zoo-based conservation efforts. Conway is also a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and a recipient of the ZSL Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Zoo Community and of the Ulysses S. Seal Award of the CBSG of IUCN.

*Publications:* More than 250 popular and technical articles, books, and reports on wildlife conservation, demography, genomics, colonial species, natural history, zoological gardens, wild animal propagation, and zoo and conservation policy.

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#### **Selected contributions by William Conway (revised May 2016)**

- 1957 "Whooping Cranes: Their status now and a program for 1958." *Animal Kingdom*, 60(6):189–190.
- 1961 "In quest of the rarest flamingo." *National Geographic Magazine*, 120(1):91–105.
- 1962 "Principles and aims of Zoological Garden Exhibition." Proceedings, International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens, 1962. September 3 through October 5, 1962. San Diego.
- 1965 A department of exhibition at the New York Zoological Park. *International Zoo Yearbook*, 5:224–225.
- 1965 "Counting elephant seals on Punta Norte." *Animal Kingdom*, 68(1):2–12.
- 1965 "The penguin metropolis of Punta Tombo." *Animal Kingdom*, 68(4):115–123.

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Selected contributions by William Conway (revised May 2016) *continued*

- 1965 "Zoos and Wildlife Conservation." The 1965 AAZPA Mid-Year Conference. Colorado Springs, CO. 4 pages.
- 1966 "Availability and long-term supply of primates for medical research: a report on a conference sponsored by the NYZS and the IUCN." *International Zoo Yearbook*, 6:284–288.
- 1966 "Exhibit for waterbirds at New York Zoo." *International Zoo Yearbook*, 6:131–4.
- 1966 "The Problems in Propagating Wild Animals on a Long-term Basis." AAZPA Annual Conference, September 1966. San Diego. 8 pages.
- 1967 *From the Pampas to Patagonia*. 45 min., 16 mm. color, sound movie. NYZS. Direction and narration by W. Conway; photography by W. Conway, R. G. Goelet, W. Drury.
- 1968 "How to exhibit a bullfrog; a bed-time story for zoo men." *Curator* 2, (4): 310–318. (This article has been republished many times and in a revised version.)
- 1968 "The consumption of wildlife by man." *Animal Kingdom*, 71(3):18–23. See *Das Tier*, below. (Republished and distributed by IUCN.)
- 1968 *The feeding of wild birds in captivity*. Paper presented December 11, 1968, at Michigan State University (MSU), as part of course for veterinarians sponsored by AAZV and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, subsequently widely distributed in manifold. 22 pages.
- 1968 *The Institute for Research in Animal Behavior and the New York Zoological Society*. Paper presented May 10, 1968, for conference in San Francisco, sponsored by San Francisco State College, San Francisco Zoological Society, and San Francisco Institute of Animal Behavior. 12 pages.
- 1969 "Zoos: their changing roles." *Science*, 163 (3862):48–52.
- 1970 "What is 'endangered'? New legislation fails to come to grips with a difficult problem." *Animal Kingdom*, 73(5):2–9.
- 1971 "Everything you always wanted to know about wild animals,\* \*but were afraid to ask." 1971 AAZPA Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, UT. 10 pages.
- 1971 "Zoo education; recent interpretations." Proceedings of the 1971 meeting of the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens, 10–18.
- 1973 *Accreditation of Zoos and Aquariums*. American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Oglebay Park, WV. 16 pages (guide, questionnaire, visiting committee, instructions, etc.).



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Selected contributions by William Conway (revised May 2016) *continued*

- 1973 “Conservation research and the zoo; the programs of the New York Zoological Society.” 49th Annual Conference of the AAZPA. October 8, 1973. Houston, TX. 24 pages.
- 1974 “Animal Management Models and long-term captive propagation.” Proceedings of the 50th Annual Conference of the AAZPA, Philadelphia, PA, 141–148.
- 1974 “The role of zoos in conservation.” *The 1001 Nature Trust Symposium on the Contribution of Zoos to the Conservation of Nature*. Regent’s Park, London, 4–10.
- 1976 “The role of zoos in wildlife conservation.” W. Conway, Chairman. AAAS [American Association for the Advancement of Science] Symposium. *Zoos and Wildlife Conservation*. February 23, 1976. Tape by AAAS.
- 1977 “A policy for the acquisition and disposition of zoo and aquarium animals.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, 17:198–200.
- 1977 “Chapter 2: Housing (holding, breeding, and experimental).” In *Laboratory Animal Management: Wild Birds*. National Academy of Sciences. Washington, DC, 10–21.
- 1978 Ricklefs, R. E., ed., and D. Amadon, W. Conway, R. Miller, I. Nisbet, R. Schreiber, U. Seal, R. Selander, and S. Temple. “Report of the Advisory Committee on the California Condor.” *Audubon Conservation Report No. 6*. New York. 27 pages.
- 1978 “A different kind of captivity.” *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 44 (9):264–267. February 15, 1978.
- 1978 “Breeding endangered birds in captivity: the last resort.” In *Endangered Birds: management techniques for threatened species*, edited by S. A. Temple, 225–230. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- 1979 “An undertaking for zoo curators: ISIS [now Species 360], analysis and animal management.” AAZPA Annual Conference Proceedings. St. Louis, MO, 54–66.
- 1979 “The scientific justification of studbooks.” IUDZG International Studbook Symposium, October 1979, Copenhagen, 19–20. 10 pages.
- 1980 “An Overview of Captive Propagation.” In *Conservation Biology: An evolutionary-ecological perspective*, edited by M. E. Soule and B. Wilcox, 199–208. Sinauer Associates, 384 pages. (For the First International Conference on Research in Conservation Biology. La Jolla, CA)
- 1980 “New conservation perspectives.” AAZPA 1980 Annual Conference Proceedings, 30–38.
- 1980 “What zoos are all about...or should be.” *Zoo* 16, (2):14–20.

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- 1982 Foose, T. J., and W. G. Conway. "Models for population management of the lion-tailed macaque resources in captivity (a working paper)." *The Lion-Tailed Macaque: Status and Conservation*, edited by P. G. Heltne, 329–341. New York: Alan R. Liss Inc.
- 1982 "The species survival plan; tailoring long-term propagation, species by species." AAZPA 1982 Annual Conference Proceedings, 6–11.
- 1983 "Captive birds and conservation." In *Perspectives in ornithology, Essays presented for the centennial of the American Ornithologists' Union*, edited by A. H. Brush and G. A. Clark Jr., 23–36. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 1983 Species Survival Plan (SSP) Subcommittee Report. *Species Survival Plan*. SSP Subcommittee of the AAZPA Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee, Chairman W. Conway. May 1983. Photocopy publication by AAZPA, Oglebay Park, WV. 15 pages.
- 1984 Foose, T., and R. Wagner, et al. *Species Survival Plan of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums*. Wheeling, WV. 24 pages.
- 1985 "The Species Survival Plan and the Conference on Reproductive Strategies for Endangered Wildlife." *Zoo Biology*, 4:219–223.
- 1986 "JungleWorld, Concept and Execution." AAZPA 1986 Annual Proceedings, 325–333.
- 1986 Soule, M., M. Gilpin, W. Conway, and T. Foose. "The Millennium Ark: How long the voyage, How many staterooms, How many passengers?" *Zoo Biology*, 5:101–114.
- 1986 "The practical difficulties and financial implications of endangered species breeding programmes." *International Zoo Yearbook*, 24/25: 210–219.
- 1987 "Species carrying capacity in the zoo alone." AAZPA 1987 Annual Proceedings, 20–32.
- 1989 Gwynne, J., and D. Western. "Replacement of the Nairobi Animal Orphanage with a Wildlife Education Centre." Study prepared for the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department. February 1989. Nairobi, Kenya. 29 pages.
- 1989 "Altered States: population viability analysis, planning and caring for wildlife in parks." Workshop on Analytical Methods for Population Viability Analysis and Management. October 23–26. Front Royal, VA. 5 pages. (See below, published 1995)



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Selected contributions by William Conway (revised May 2016) *continued*

- 1989 “The prospects for sustaining species and their evolution.” In *Conservation for the Twenty-first Century*, edited by David Western and Mary Pearl, 199–209. Oxford University Press.
- 1990 “The zoo and faunal restoration strategies; future prospects.” In Proceedings, 5th World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity, edited by B. Dresser, R. Reece, and E. Maruska, 439–447. October 9–12, 1988. Cincinnati, OH.
- 1992 “On the Shores of a Cold Sea River; Conservation of Marine Mammals along the Patagonian coast.” In *Tracks in the Sand, Shadows in the Sea*, by Alfredo Lichter, 164–172. Buenos Aires: Ediciones Terra Nova. 287 pages.
- 1992 “The Conservation Park: a new zoo synthesis for a changed world.” In *The Role of Zoos and Aquariums in Biological Conservation: Past, present and future*. A special symposium at the Annual AAZPA Conference. September 17, 1992. Toronto.
- 1994 “Zoo-based international conservation.” AZA Annual Conference Proceedings, 67–73.
- 1995 Foreword. “Altered States: population viability analyses, planning and caring for wildlife in parks.” In *Population Management for Survival and Recovery*, edited by J. Ballou, M. Gilpin, and T. Foose, xiii–xix. New York: Columbia University Press. (See 1989.)
- 1995 “Wild and zoo animal interactive management and habitat conservation.” *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 4 (6): 573–594.
- 1995 “Zoos, conservation and ethical paradoxes.” In *Ethics on the Ark; zoos, animal welfare, and wildlife conservation*, edited by B. Norton, M. Hutchins, E. Stevens, and T. Maple, 1–9. Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- 1996 Hutchins, M., and W. Conway. “Beyond Noah’s Ark: the evolving role of modern zoological parks and aquariums in field conservation.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, 34:117–130.
- 1996 “The in situ conservation program of the Wildlife Conservation Society.” *International Zoo News*, 43/5(270), 274–279.
- 1997 “Saving Patagonia’s coastal wildlife.” AZA Annual Conference Proceedings, 169–175.
- 1998 “Zoo Reserves; a proposal.” AZA Annual Conference Proceedings, 54–58.
- 1999 Yorio, P., Esteban Frere, Patricia Gandini, and William Conway. “Status and Conservation of Seabirds Breeding in Argentina.” *Bird Conservation International*, 9:299–314.

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- 1999 “The Changing Role of Zoos in the 21st Century.” Keynote for International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG), October 1999, Pretoria. Published in *EAZA’s News* 29:8–13, January/February/March 2000; translated into Spanish (South America) and Czech: Menici se uloha zoologických zahrad v 21. století, *Annual Report of the Union of the Czech and Slovak Zoological Gardens*, 1999, 104–111.
- 2001 Conway, W. G., M. Hutchins, M. Souza, Y. Kapetanakos, and E. Paul, eds. *The AZA Field Conservation Resource Guide*. Atlanta: Zoo Atlanta. 323 pages.
- 2001 Conway, W. “Wildlife Conservation Society Patagonian Coast Projects: Examples from a long-term conservation program,” 27–35. *The AZA Field Conservation Resource Guide*. Atlanta: Zoo Atlanta.
- 2003 “The role of zoos in the 21st Century.” *International Zoo Yearbook*, 38:7–13.
- 2004 Miller, B., W. Conway, R. Reading, C. Wemmer, D. Wildt, D. Kleiman, S. Montfort, A. Rabinowitz, B. Armstrong, and M. Hutchins. “Evaluating the conservation mission of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, and natural history museums.” *Conservation Biology*, 18(1):86–93.
- 2005 “The Once and Future Zoo.” ARAZPA/SEAZA/WAZA [Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria/South East Asian Zoo Association/World Association of Zoos and Aquariums] Conference Keynote. May 2, 2005. Melbourne, Australia. 15 pages, plus PowerPoint.
- 2005 *Act III in Patagonia: People and Wildlife*. London and Washington: Island Press/Shearwater Books. 344 pages.
- 2006 “Conservation Strategies for Colonial and Social Species.” In *State of the Wild 2006*, edited by Sharon Guynup, 202–210. Wildlife Conservation Society. London and Washington: Island Press. 326 pages.
- 2007 “Entering the 21st Century.” In *Zoos in the 21st Century*, edited by A. Zimmermann, M. Hatchwell, L. Dickie, and C. West, 12–21. Cambridge University Press. For Symposium on Zoos and Conservation. February 19–20, 2004, London.
- 2009 Conway, W. “Conservation Genetics and the Extinction Crisis; a perspective.” In *Conservation Genetics in the Age of Genomics*, edited by G. Amato, O. Ryder, H. Rosenbaum, and R. Desalle, 25–33. New York: Columbia University Press.



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- 2010 “Buying Time for Wild Animals with Zoos.” *Zoo Biology*, 29:1–9.
- 2013 “Why Are Zoos Doing In-Situ Conservation?” Keynote. Proceedings of the 68th Annual Conference, WAZA, 5–7. October 13–17. Orlando, FL.
- 2016 “Beyond the Zoo’s Borders.” Center for Humans and Nature, web post. 922 words, two illustrations. [www.humansandnature.org/beyond-the-zoos-borders](http://www.humansandnature.org/beyond-the-zoos-borders)