



*Last updated June 28, 2010*

## **International Fundraising Committee**

**Bill Sydeman, Co-Chair**

Representing [Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research](#) and [Pacific Seabird Group](#)

**Jennifer Wheeler, Co-Chair**

Jennifer Wheeler has served as the Coordinator for the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas partnership since 2001. She forwards waterbird and seabird conservation activities through the promotion of an international framework built upon the vision that the distribution, diversity, and abundance of populations and habitats of breeding, migratory, and nonbreeding waterbirds are sustained or restored throughout the lands and waters of the Americas. She is currently focused on the implementation of regional-scale waterbird and seabird conservation plans in North America and the development of such plans in Latin America and the Caribbean. She advocates for financial and policy support for seabird conservation issues important to these regions including emerging and ongoing marine threats, capacity for monitoring and data management, island restoration, and species-specific planning and restoration. Employed by the USFWS, Ms. Wheeler develops her work priorities in consultation with a broad international community of seabird scientists, managers, advocates and educators. She has a MSc. Degree in Conservation Biology from University of Maryland and has previous professional experience in both private for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Representing [Waterbird Conservation for the Americas](#)

**Jessica Hardesty**

Dr. Jessica Hardesty Norris, Seabird Program Director, joined American Bird Conservancy in Spring 2007 as she wrapped up her PhD in Ecology at Duke with John Terborgh. She received her BSc in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University, and then spent a few years as a field technician in the United States before heading to Ecuador with the US Peace Corps. She conducted her dissertation research in Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador, focusing on the ecology of birds in Sangay National Park, Ecuador where she spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2005, she worked with ABC, WWF, CI, and TNC developing project abstracts for Alliance for Zero Extinction sites. Jessica now has 12 years of experience as a conservationist, ecologist and social scientist, with a focus on Latin America. She has been working on seabird policy issues such as the accession of the US to Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and overseas ABC field projects to benefit the world's most endangered seabirds in Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Representing [American Bird Conservancy, Seabird Program](#)

**David Irons**

David Irons is the Alaska Seabird Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service; he also serves as Chair for the Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird), a subject expert group of the international Arctic organization, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); Chair of the

International Steering Committee for the 1st World Seabird Conference (September 2010); an adjunct professor with University of Alaska, Anchorage and served as Chair of the Pacific Seabird Group in 2003.

David went to Alaska in 1976 from Penn State University to work on a sea otter project in the Aleutian Islands, where he spent many cold hours underwater in leaky dry suits counting sea urchins and other benthic invertebrates. He received his MS from Oregon State University in 1982. With his attention switching from marine mammals and the nearshore community to seabirds and the marine ecosystem, David received his Ph D from UC Irvine in 1992. His work throughout Alaska has focused on seabird foraging behaviour and ecology and population changes related to food availability and climate change. Recently he has been working with seabird scientists from the circumpolar Arctic to investigate the effects of climate change at the circumpolar scale. He is also working with colleagues from around the world to create Global Networks of Seabird Colony Databases and Seabird Productivity Information as well as many ongoing field studies. Results of his work are published in more than 50 scientific journal articles.

Representing [Circumpolar Seabird Group \(CBird\)](#) and [Pacific Seabird Group](#)

### **Ron LeValley**

Representing [Pacific Seabird Group](#)

### **Marcia Maslonek**

### **Kim Nelson**

### **Kathleen O'Reilly**

### **Veronica Padula**

### **Jennifer Provencher**

### **Norman Ratcliffe**

Norman Ratcliffe studied life history strategies of great skuas on Foula for his PhD at the University of Glasgow. After this he worked for 10 months as an offshore observer and data analyst for the JNCC Seabirds at Sea Team, before leaving to join the RSPB as their Seabird Conservation Biologist. During his 13 year period with RSPB, Norman studied the population ecology of a wide range of bird species, particularly of skuas, terns, storm-petrels and black-tailed godwits within the UK and Ireland. Overseas, he studied responses of Ascension Island's seabirds to removal of feral cats, censused Fea's petrels on Cape Verde, developed approaches to determining sustainable egg harvests for Inuit communities in Greenland, and quantified tern trapping in Ghana. He left RSPB to work for British Antarctic Survey as a penguin biologist, where he has been in post for 1.5 years. Here he is developing research into the effects of foraging conditions penguins encounter, and the decisions they make when faced with these, upon their subsequent survival and reproduction. He was elected as Chair of the Seabird Group in 2007, and serves on a number of scientific committees.

Representing [The Seabird Group](#)

**Melanie Steinkamp**

**Yutaka Watanuki**

Yutaka Watanuki is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University since 2002. He graduated his MSc and PhD degrees with the works on the daily activity pattern of Leach's storm-petrels and species, inter-colony and individual variation in diet and foraging behaviour of two species of gulls in Hokkaido in 1981-1986. He had been working as assistant professor at National Institute of Polar Research in 1987-1993 and leading the project on Adelie penguin foraging behaviour in a fast sea-ice area. After moving to Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, he has been working on the seabird diet, foraging behaviour and breeding biology monitoring program at Teuri Island, Hokkaido and also work on diving behaviour and physiology with Thick-billed Murres collaborating with Norwegian scientists during 1993-2002. During these several years at Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, he is continuing monitoring at Teuri Island with his students, and also work on foraging strategy of European shags, thick billed murres and Streaked shearwaters in collaborating with Scottish, Alaskan, and Japanese seabird scientists using recently developed bio-logging techniques. His special interest is to understand interactions between marine physical and biological environment and seabird's foraging behaviour and breeding ecology. He is leading Japan Seabird Group and working on colony database in Japan. He has been a member of Pacific Seabird Group and PICES (North Pacific Marine Science organization).

Representing **Japanese Seabird Group and Hokkaido University, Japan**

**Pablo Yorio**

Pablo Yorio completed his Doctorate in Biological Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires. He has a research position at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and is currently acting as Technical Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society Argentina Program. He is also Professor at the Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia. Since 1984 he has been working on the ecology and conservation of Patagonian seabirds, including penguins, gulls, terns and cormorants. Research topics have included distribution and abundance of breeding populations, breeding biology, habitat selection, feeding ecology, interactions with human activities and conservation strategies. He has written over ninety scientific articles, book chapters, and technical reports on issues related to seabirds in Argentina. He has acted as consultant in topics related to coastal and marine conservation for several national and international organizations.

Representing **Argentina Seabird Group**