

**Marni Gonnering, VM18**  
WMC Conservation Chair



**Hey Wildlifers!** Welcome to the first WMC Conservation Newsletter of the school year. Here, I aim to recap some stories about wildlife and conservation efforts from around the globe. Enjoy!

## Military Hazard Management



Image Credit: US Air Force

Wildlife biologists have been a part of the U.S. military aircraft team since 2009. Stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and southwest Asia, biologists use their expertise to decrease the number of aircraft/wildlife strikes at the bases they work at. Injured animals are rehabbed by the biologist or transferred to the veterinary base for medical attention.

Each volunteer is deployed for 4 months at a time.

<http://wildlife.org/wildlife-biologists-protect-military-wildlife/>

## Animal Encounters: Friend or Foe?



Of course we all love wild animals, that's why we give up hours of our time to help the HBC box turtle or the owl with a wing fracture. I bet many of us also enjoy traveling and experiencing fascinating creatures first hand. But did we know that tourist "wildlife encounters" can sometimes do more harm than good? Many tourists don't

recognize the difference, says a new study published by the University of Oxford. About 20-40% of global tourism is wildlife related. The study rated attractions based on animal welfare and conservation efforts. They then compared these rating to reviews on the popular site TripAdvisor. Animal sanctuaries rated the best and street show rated the worst. One researcher suggests TripAdvisor create an animal welfare and conservation seal awarded to companies that do well in both categories.

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/151021-tourism-wildlife-welfare-conservation/?utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_content=link\\_fb20151022news-tourismwildlife&utm\\_campaign=Content&sf14413528=1](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/10/151021-tourism-wildlife-welfare-conservation/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Social&utm_content=link_fb20151022news-tourismwildlife&utm_campaign=Content&sf14413528=1)

### **IL Endangered: Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*)**

With a wing span of about 3.3 in, Hine's Emerald Dragonflies live around spring-fed marshes that are high in calcium carbonate. Their distinguishing features are their metallic bodies and bright green eyes. Today they can only be found in IL, MI, MO, &WI and are at risk

of becoming extinct due to habitat loss, pesticide pollution in wetlands, and other changes in ground water quality.



A female Hine's emerald dragonfly.

Photo by Paul Burton

Being sensitive to water quality, they serve as environmental sentinels. Eggs hatch in the water where nymphs (juvenile dragonflies) spend 2-4 years of their lives. To reach adulthood, the nymphs complete a final skin shedding and emerge from the water. Their adult lives only last 4-5 weeks.

[http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/inspects/hed/hins\\_fct.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/inspects/hed/hins_fct.html)

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