

American Museum  
of Natural History

Center for Biodiversity  
and Conservation



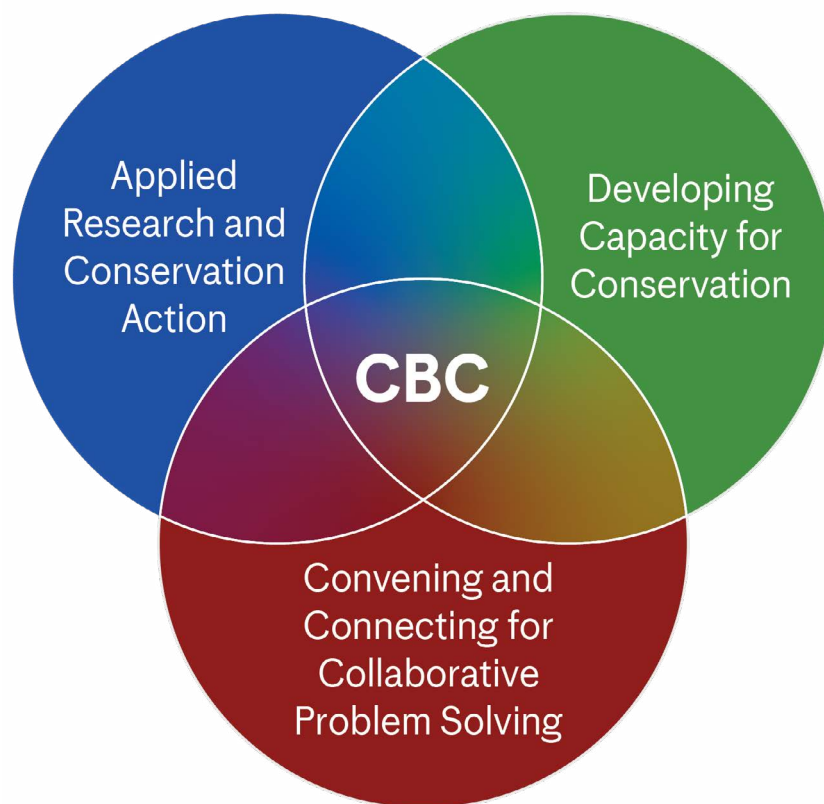
A one-eyed sphinx moth, *Smerinthus astarte*.  
Photo: Jade Anderson

Progress Update Fall 2025

## Center for Biodiversity and Conservation

### What we do

For over 30 years, the CBC has been transforming knowledge into conservation action to sustain life on Earth. The work of conservation is both scientific and social, so we approach it by **connecting different strands of knowledge in our research**, **connecting people to knowledge**, and **connecting people to each other**.



Both longstanding and new projects are helping us deepen synergies with other scientific work at the Museum, support decision-making under climate change, and contribute to local and regional biodiversity and climate resilience. We are pleased to share recent highlights from our work.

# Appointments, Awards & News

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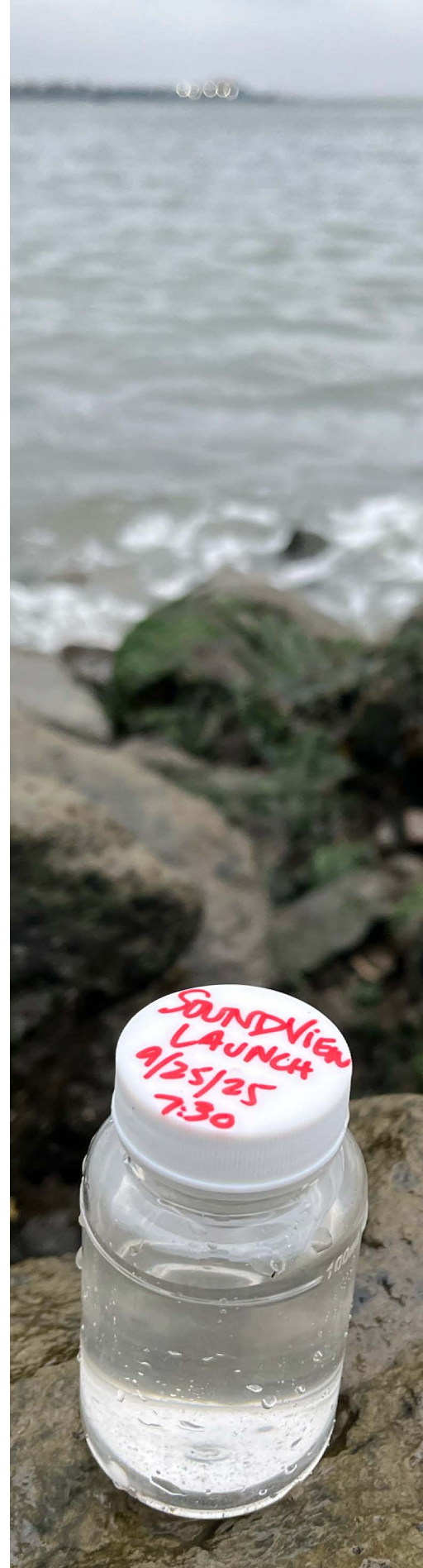
A new role, CBC Affiliated Scientist, has been created at the Museum to advance the institutional goal of addressing the local and global impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss through collaborative work. This initiative will encourage collaboration between scientists from across the Museum and CBC researchers on joint conservation projects. Affiliated Scientists are appointed for two years and are eligible to apply for small grants to fund or defray the cost of seed projects, travel, or publications associated with the project. The initiative was co-designed by Jaffe Chief Conservation Scientist and Curator Dr. Jesse Barber, CBC Director Dr. Ana Porzecanski, and Dr. Cheryl Hayashi, Senior Vice President and Provost of Science. We are accepting expressions of interest and anticipate making appointments in the coming months.

Dr. Mary Blair, CBC Associate Director, represented the Center and the Museum at numerous gatherings across the global policy arena, including the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City and the 8th World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Thanks to support from the Hudson River Foundation, the CBC welcomed two new field assistants this past season, who will be supporting social science research on fishing activity across the city. Margot Mattson, a graduate of Pitzer College and San Diego State University (Geography) has research experience on participatory and community-engaged projects across Latin America. Jarely Sabater, a graduate of CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Anthropology) brings valuable personal experience to the research having grown up in the Bronx fishing with her family along the shores of the Hutchinson River and City Island.

The book *Monitoreo de la Biodiversidad Colombiana*, co-authored by CBC Bioinformatics Specialist Daniel Lopez-Lozano received an Honorable Mention in the category Environment and Sustainable Development at the Colombian Escobar National Awards for Science and Solidarity 2025.

A publication by former CBC Associate Director Felicity Arengo that sheds light on how the El Niño Southern Oscillation affects two flamingo species was selected for a special open access collection in the journal *Bird Conservation International*.



Bronx River water sample.

## Our research illuminates ecological relationships and guides conservation planning and practice.

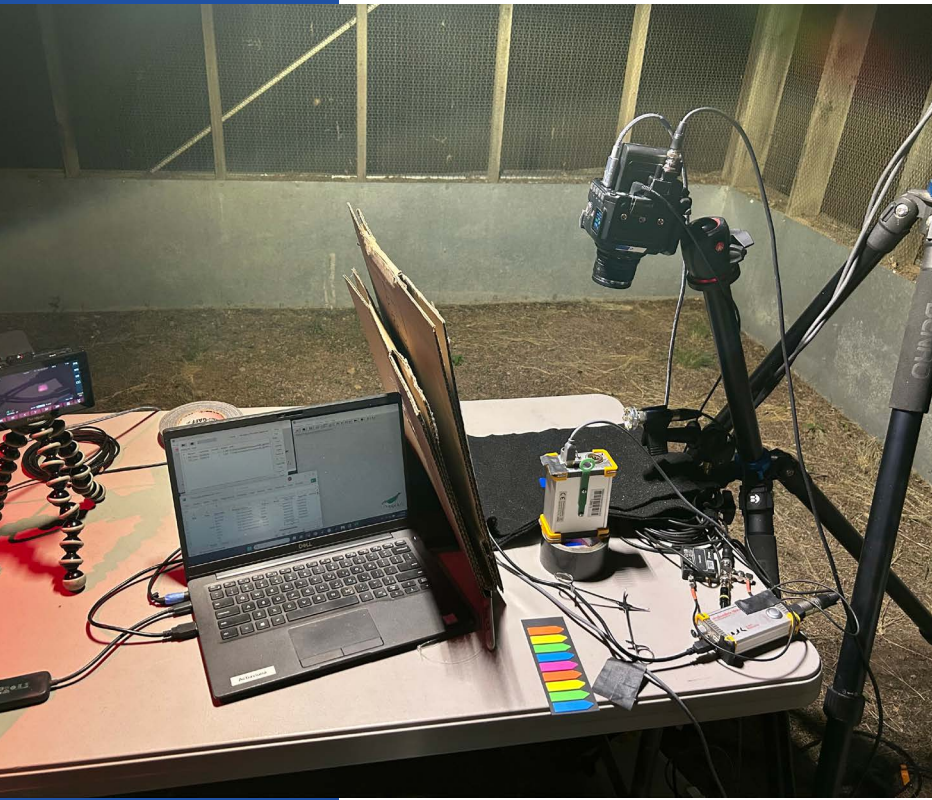
### How can we mitigate the impacts of light and sound pollution on wildlife?

Dr. Barber published a new study at the interface of wildlife ecology and human experience in nature. Along with a team of collaborators from the National Park Service, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Vermont, Dr. Barber examined the tradeoffs participants are willing to make between human preferences and conservation efforts around night lighting. This work demonstrated that people are willing to accept lighting conditions that benefit the natural night environment and reduce negative impacts on wildlife even if their preferences are not met. These results were derived from work in both Grand Teton and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks and provide support for planners and decision makers seeking to protect natural night and wildlife.

Also focusing on light pollution, Dr. Barber spent several weeks this past summer at the Museum's Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua mountains of southern Arizona launching new research on the impacts of light pollution on bat and moth interactions and the traits they have evolved in response to each other, something evolutionary biologists describe as an evolutionary "arms race." Dr. Barber and his team collected a substantial amount of data and completed plans for the forthcoming renovation of custom facilities to study bat flight.

Another line of Dr. Barber's research brings further evidence and urgency to the need to mitigate the ecological costs of human-caused noise, a nearly ubiquitous feature of modern environments. Working with collaborators at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Dr. Barber used experimental approaches to demonstrate that vocal activity and abundance of migratory birds is negatively affected by the noise generated by wind energy production, specifically wind turbine noise. Dr. Barber used similar experimental soundscape manipulation to probe the importance of natural acoustic environments for wildlife. In a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project, Dr. Barber and collaborators at Cal Poly played crashing ocean surf—something the researchers called a "phantom ocean"—for two years at several sites in central California. Results show that bats markedly change in species richness and turnover in loud but natural soundscapes. These findings provide compelling evidence that natural sounds are an underappreciated habitat feature that shapes species distributions and "filters" communities in a non-random way.

Dr. Barber continues to integrate CBC expertise to expand this line of research. He has projects underway to understand the extent of off-highway vehicle use with CBC Biodiversity Specialist Amanda Sigouin, and to map the noise produced by off-highway vehicles across Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest with CBC Senior Software Programmer Pete Ersts.



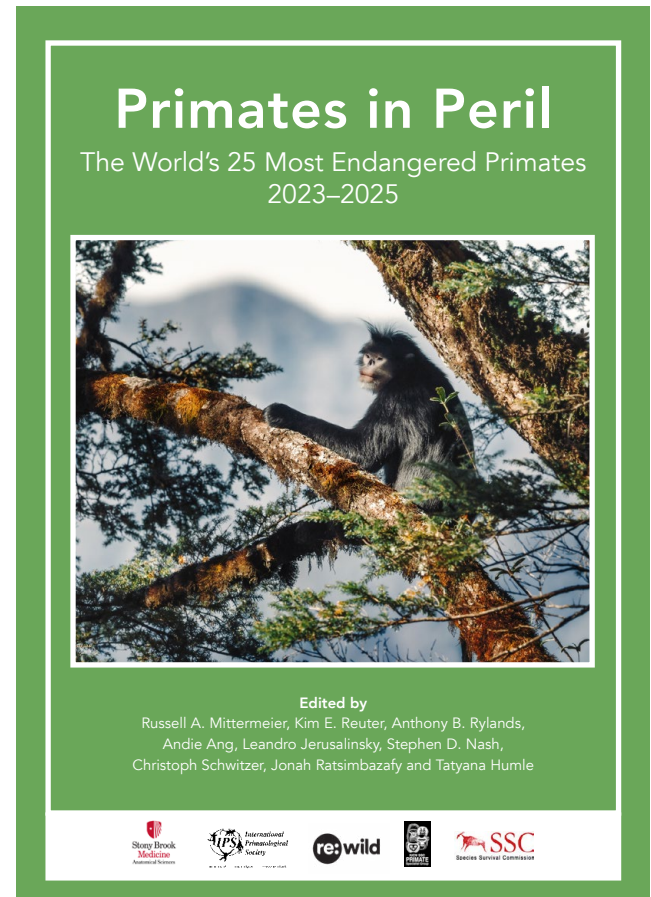
Photos from the Museum's Southwestern Research Station. Top left: Equipment used to study bat flight. Top right: *Dynastes grantii*. Bottom left: *Manduca sexta*. Bottom right: *Lasiurus blossevillii*. Photos by Jade Anderson.

How can museum collections and tools inform conservation strategies today?

The CBC continues to make important contributions to the growing, new field of conservation museomics. Dr. Blair co-authored a paper in the journal *Nature Communications* on lemur genomics, utilizing museum specimens to show how multiple bursts of speciation and hybridization can help explain lemurs' extraordinary diversity. With close to 95% of lemur species threatened with extinction, these findings provide fresh insight into how Madagascar's primate diversity evolved and highlight patterns of speciation, extinction, and gene flow that can inform future conservation strategies. Past conservation museomics work by Dr. Blair and colleagues led to a new pygmy loris species being described in 2023, which was recently formally [listed](#) with the status of endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The species has also been included in the [list of top 25 most endangered primates](#) by Re:wild, an environmental organization dedicated to nature protection, restoration, and rewilding.

CBC collaborators and visiting scientists who work with Dr. Blair on conservation genomics in Vietnam, Dr. Minh Le and Dr. Martha Hurley, co-authored a new paper in the journal *Cell* sharing the first ever reference genome of the elusive bovine known as the saola, which is likely to be extinct in the wild with only a few individuals remaining in captivity. The new genome data highlight two genetically distinct populations which, if combined, could reduce genetic stress on a potential reintroduced population.

In Colombia, Dr. Blair continues to lead NASA-funded work with the Colombia Biodiversity Observation Network and Protected Areas System. The tools and approach of this work were recently used to support training for the parks' remote sensing team, and the creation of an early warning system for ecosystem degradation events in protected areas. The Protected Areas System produces ecosystem change maps every year for reporting purposes. The early alert system provides quarterly maps representing transformed or degraded locations over a period due to human disturbances. These alerts are used for identifying critical areas for intervention to reduce human pressure on ecosystems and also to produce indicators of successful management of protected areas towards ecosystem conservation. In addition to these workshops, Dr. Blair and team also supported an update of several key indicators being used by the Protected Areas System, building on distribution data from nearly 9,000 species. These indicators were previously only calculated on the basis of a few hundred species in pilot phases, so this will improve calculations of representativeness and connectivity, which in turn will increase effectiveness of management measures.



## How do species introductions affect island ecosystems?

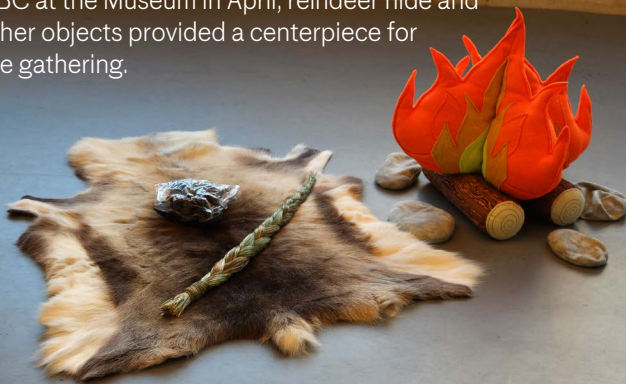
Dr. Ann Marie Gawel, Eleanor J. Sterling Conservation Fellow at the CBC, was part of an international group of co-authors that published a study in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* in October 2025 on how species introductions shift seed dispersal in island ecosystems. In what is the first global study of this phenomenon, the authors compiled trait data from fruits and frugivores across 120 island groups, including the Mariana Islands—Dr. Gawel's area of expertise. The results show extensive shifts in seed disperser communities from mostly avian herbivore seed dispersers toward more mammalian terrestrial seed predators. Furthermore, while there were variations by archipelago, the study shows shifts are driven to a large degree by introduction of new species rather than by local extinctions. This has major implications for the persistence of island plant and animal communities and underscores the urgency of managing introduced species.

The CBC supports and advances biocultural approaches to conservation through interdisciplinary research, evidence synthesis, and knowledge exchange. Funding from NASA has finally arrived to support the CBC's new collaboration with Arctic Indigenous reindeer herders to co-investigate and monitor the links between reindeer, people, and climate change. The project is launching with great interest from many communities, Indigenous leaders, and stakeholders, with Dr. Blair invited to give presentations about the project and its approach to research led by Indigenous knowledge at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at the IUCN's World Conservation Congress, and at the Arctic Circle Assembly.

The CBC is also collaborating with Nia Tero, an organization supporting the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in maintaining a healthy planet, to understand the practices of Indigenous Peoples' Guardianship and its potential to accelerate conservation. In April, during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the CBC hosted a two-day workshop at the Museum with over 25 Indigenous partners and advocates to advance how we measure and communicate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to humanity and planetary health. Following the workshop, the CBC completed a literature review that gathers evidence on elements useful to evaluate and frame Indigenous Peoples' Guardianship practices. The work draws from multiple strands of scholarship and knowledge held by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working to protect and revitalize culture and nature. A key outcome of this project will be a significant peer-reviewed publication focused on Indigenous Peoples' Guardianship as a simultaneously ancient and emerging way of caring for place.

## How can conservation be improved and accelerated through Indigenous guardianship and local knowledge?

Indigenous partners and advocates hosted by the CBC at the Museum in April; reindeer hide and other objects provided a centerpiece for the gathering.



How can we make fishing in NYC safer and more accessible – and better care for NYC waters and coasts?

Work has begun on the CBC's new social science research project about small-scale fishing in New York City, thanks to support from the Hudson River Foundation. Rizavi Innovation in Conservation Fellow Dr. Adam Jadhav is leading the project, with support from CBC Director Dr. Ana Porzecanski and CBC Visiting Scientist Dr. Jesse Rodenbiker, an Assistant Professor of Geography at Rutgers University, as well as from two new field assistants. Field work has begun in all five boroughs, where the research team has already spent over 200 hours this summer leading ethnographic observations and interviews at piers and other fishing locations. Initial observations have confirmed that the city's fishers are a diverse group with varied motivations and backgrounds, employing multiple methods, and focused on a variety of fish and crustacean species. The research team has also led consultations and meetings with other scholars, managers, officials, civil society groups, and fishers, creating spaces where these actors can explore questions about fishing and contribute views and expertise. Data analysis and regular practitioner exchanges will begin in the winter, to better understand the nature of fishing activities and explore implications for coastal management and human health.



NYC fish, Oyster toadfish (*Opsanus tau*) and Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*).



In addition, the CBC has begun interdisciplinary, participatory research on New York City waters to illuminate the effects of shifting coasts and a changing climate on biodiversity and health. This local research is part of the Museum's Climate Impact Initiative, which received initial funding from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The research was co-developed with local partners who provided direction and priorities for the research agenda. Much of this work centers on the Bronx River, the only freshwater river in New York City. Stretching 23 miles from its source at the Kensico Dam in Westchester to its mouth in the Bronx, at the eastern end of Long Island Sound, and dammed since the 1600s, the river has experienced high levels of pollution. It is also slowly being restored through the hard work of community advocates.

With the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, the CBC is investigating the environmental and population history of local fish species, with a particular focus on the American eel. Dr. Jadhav, in collaboration with the Museum's Department of Ichthyology, is investigating what we can learn about eel occurrence in NYC over time from Museum and archival records, as well as from new collections, using both environmental history and genomics. Dr. Suzanne Macey, CBC Assistant Director for Capacity Development, is contributing her ecology and data analyses expertise to analyze several years' worth of data on fish using the Bronx River fish ladder to access habitat upstream.

Lastly, based on discussions with the Bronx River Alliance, Dr. Porzecanski is leading field work to understand the impacts of weather events on the presence and abundance of *Enterococci* bacteria in the Bronx River. During the month of September, Dr. Porzecanski collected daily water samples at multiple locations along the river to generate a more detailed picture of how rainfall links to contamination levels. Preliminary results show a large increase in contamination levels with rain events, followed by unexpectedly rapid decreases. Understanding the effects of increased rainfall will be important to guide river use and management under a changing climate.



Dr. Macey and Dr. Jadhav on site with NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.



Dr. Porzecanski sampling water in Soundview Park, Bronx.

## We continue to see important impact and uptake of our tools and previous work.

The CBC's software tools are used daily to support research and education and have been cited in thousands of peer-reviewed articles as well as government reports.

*Maxent*, the CBC-hosted software for modeling species niches and distributions that is used worldwide, has now been cited more than 25,000 times. Since Spring 2025, *Maxent* has supported numerous new conservation studies, including on how climate change affects [butterfly diversity](#), endemic Neotropical [frogs](#), [Gila monsters](#), and Mexican [tarantulas](#). Modeling biodiversity under a changing climate is also informative for our economies and our health; additional studies focused on the impacts of climate change on [vanilla pollination](#), [fish stocks](#), and [dengue transmission](#) and [outbreak](#) risk.



Rocky Mountain Parnassian  
(*Parnassius smintheus*).  
Photo: Sue Elwell



Gila monster  
(*Heloderma suspectum*).  
Photo: John Kellam



Mexican Red-kneed Tarantula  
(*Brachypelma smithi*)  
Photo: George Chernilevsky

Additionally, the CBC's species distribution modeling software platform *Wallace* continues to be used for conservation science in Colombia and beyond. Some examples include a new study on [Colombian giant otters](#), [forest birds](#), [priority areas for conservation](#), as well as global studies that inform invasive species and agricultural pest management, such as [khapra beetles](#) and [rice stink bugs](#). Vietnamese researchers, many of them collaborators on past projects, continue to build on CBC work and software tools to advance other conservation fronts including assessment of climate change impacts on [newts](#) and [forest trees](#), and habitat conservation priorities for [bats](#).

# Capacity Development

## The CBC creates resources and spaces to train and empower conservationists everywhere.

In everything we do, we continue to prioritize open access learning resources, and the creation of environments where all academics, students, professionals, and community members can contribute solutions to urgent conservation problems.

The CBC's annual signature conference for students and early-career professionals—the Marshall M. Weinberg Student Conference on Conservation Science-New York 2025—was held on October 15-17, in partnership with the Yale School of the Environment. It was the 16th year of the conference, and we received over 400 conference applications from 47 countries and 32 U.S. states. Over 250 participants joined us at the Museum and online during three days of workshops, presentations, and events. Nearly 70 advisors, reviewers, and mentors provided feedback to participants at various stages of their experience, from helping participants prepare conference applications to offering advice during the conference's dedicated networking sessions.

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**Over 250 participants**

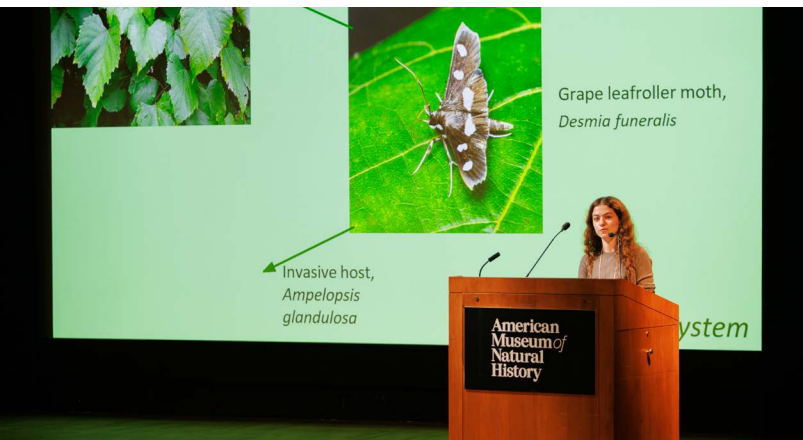
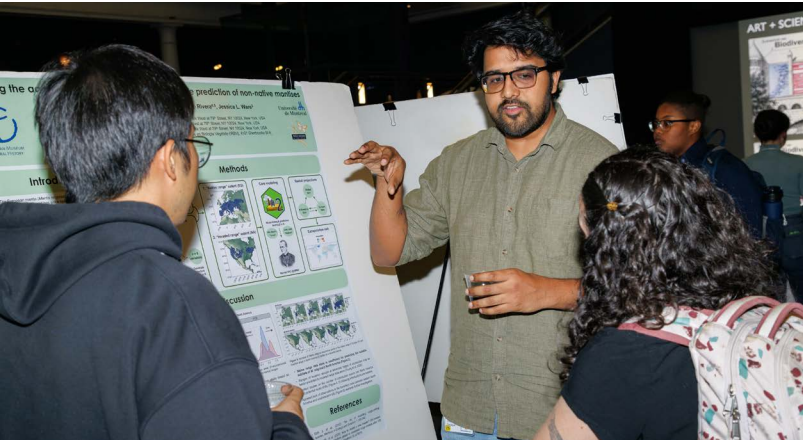
**Nearly 70 advisors,  
reviewers, and  
mentors**



Participants at the Student Conference on Conservation Science - New York.

Photo: Alvaro Keding/© AMNH

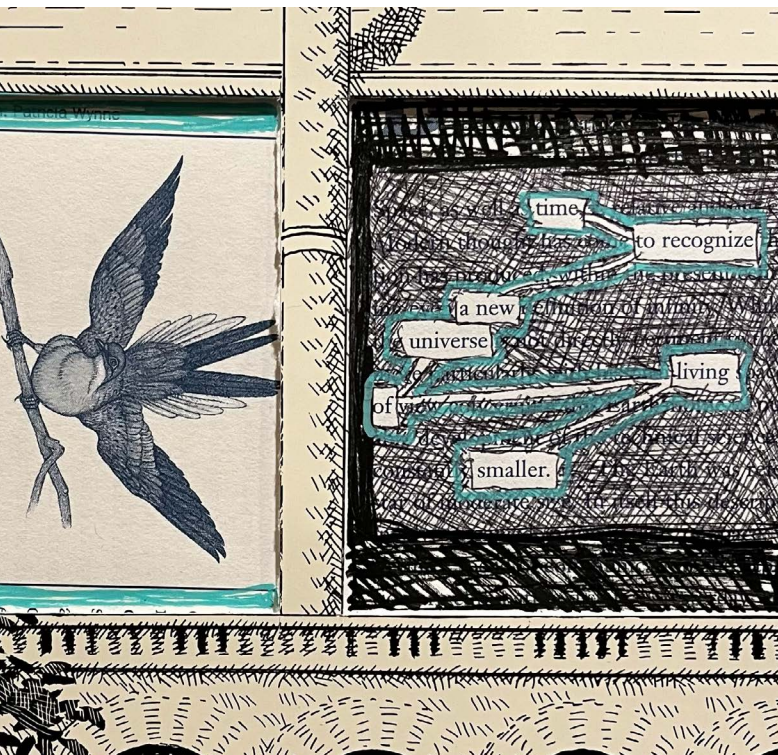
Dr. Liliana Dávalos, Professor of Conservation Biology at Stony Brook University, gave an inspiring keynote talk about her work on phylogenetics, the evolution of quantitative traits, the causes and consequences of extinction, and the socioeconomics of deforestation. Dr. Dávalos shared her observations that effective conservation emerges from concerns and hopes for future generations, wildlife, ecosystems, and each other—raising the need for a science of care. The conference closed with a panel about diverse career paths in conservation, introduced by Museum President, Sean Decatur. Over 50 high school students from the Museum’s Science Research Mentoring Program also joined the conference for this panel discussion.



Top left: SCCS-NY award winners. Top right: conference poster session in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. Bottom left: poster and talk presenters in action. Bottom right: closing panel participants (left to right): Kevin Webb, Chanda Bennett, Mark Weckel, and Ana Porzecanski.

Photos: Alvaro Keding & Daniel Kim/© AMNH

New this year was the CBC's collaboration with Hara Woltz as the conference Artist-in-Residence. A New York-based artist and scientist who uses visual media to address the destruction and conservation of ecological systems, Ms. Woltz created several custom art-based projects that allowed participants to build community, reflect on their research passions, and explore evolving views of conservation science. For example, participants created something new from something old—extra stock of a book, *Scientists on Biodiversity*, published by the CBC and other Museum programs nearly 30 years ago. Using every part of the book, participants reimagined it and connected it to their own views and work through redacted poetry, collage, and drawing. These individual pieces were then assembled into a whole by the artist and displayed for the conference participants to appreciate and reflect on our connections to the Museum, nature, research, and the future.



Top left: conference Artist-in-Residence Hara Woltz. Other images: art produced by SCCS-NY participants.  
Photos: Alvaro Keding & Daniel Kim/© AMNH

The CBC's capacity development activities also encompass year-round mentoring, and CBC scientists continue to advise graduate students at the Richard Gilder Graduate School, Columbia University, and the City University of New York, as well as high school students in the Museum's Science Research Mentoring program. One such mentee, CUNY graduate student Andrew Gaier, who is mentored by Dr. Blair, was awarded research grants by the Museum's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund and the American Society of Mammalogists for his expedition this summer in Utah's Sheeprock Mountains. In this project, he is seeking to expand the distributional knowledge of small mammals in under-sampled regions of the Great Basin. This work will further understanding of how ecological communities respond to climate-driven changes in habitat availability and connectivity in fragmented systems.



An eastern dormouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*).

Left: Andrew Gaier and colleagues in the Sheeprock Mountains.

Photo: Sara B. Weinstein

The CBC's [Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners](#) (NCEP)—the program that supports college-level conservation educators through professional development and new curricular resources—continues to conduct outreach about our collection of teaching resources. This past summer, we hosted two webinars in our “Lunch & Learn” [series](#), highlighting materials published in our most recent issue of the open access journal, [Lessons in Conservation](#). This webinar series has introduced a new audience to our resources and brought new registrants to our digital resource [collection](#).

American Museum of Natural History  
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation  
Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners

**NCEP Lunch & Learn:**  
**Oysters in the City**  
Analyzing Data to Guide Coastal Restoration in New York City

Virtual August 8 11:00-11:30am ET

Image: Billion Oyster Project

American Museum of Natural History  
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation  
Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners

**NCEP Lunch & Learn:**  
**Data Analysis in R to Gain Insights for Conservation:**  
Examples from Long-Term Ecological Research

Virtual September 16 12:30-1:00pm ET

NCEP resources were also highlighted in two different online gatherings. In August, we helped to organize and contribute to the Society for Conservation Biology North America's first virtual Conservation Education Forum, which connected educators seeking to share and gain pedagogical support for fostering outstanding conservation education practices. And in July, we presented at the BIOME conference, a virtual event that was organized by the BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium for education leaders, thinkers, and innovators to explore what it means to become catalysts for change.

# Convening and Connecting

## The CBC catalyzes connections across actors to innovate and gather strong evidence for action.

Earlier this past season, Dr. Porzecanski and Ms. Sigouin presented CBC research at the inaugural Climate Solutions Summit NYC, hosted by the NY Climate Exchange on Governors Island. The NY Climate Exchange is a nonprofit organization designed to accelerate climate solutions through a diverse coalition of partners, including the Museum. The event brought together scientists, community leaders, policymakers, artists, and innovators to address one of the urgent challenges of our time: building climate resilience in coastal urban environments. Dr. Porzecanski and Ms. Sigouin presented recent research on the state of the evidence for nature-based solutions, including on how approaches to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems can benefit people and nature in an urban context.



Ms. Sigouin and Dr. Porzecanski presenting at the Climate Solutions Summit NYC hosted by the NY Climate Exchange.

Photos: Stefania Curto / Climate Exchange

This past September, the CBC co-hosted a convening of the Funders Forum on Collective Impact for a Sustainable Future, a community of over 40 organizations from across the global sustainability funding ecosystem—spanning philanthropic foundations, government research agencies, international development organizations, academic institutions, and private sector innovators. The CBC was represented by Dr. Porzecanski, Ms. Sigouin, and CBC Biodiversity Scientist Erin Betley, who played a key role in facilitating a part of the meeting. After presenting a recent CBC study on transformative change, originally commissioned by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the team facilitated discussions among Forum members on how to assess the transformative change potential of their current and future portfolios and initiatives. The event was highly successful and a unique opportunity to build relationships with colleagues in the philanthropic community. According to co-host Gaston Kremer, the Executive Director of World-Transforming Technologies, “the energy in the room was a reminder that while the gaps in funding are real and significant, the commitment to build a sequenced, synergistic ecosystem of investments is also real—and growing.”

Also in September, Dr. Blair worked closely with Dr. Melina Giakoumis, Associate Director of the Museum’s Institute for Comparative Genomics to co-host the Museum’s first ever Ancient Biomolecules Symposium. The symposium convened leading scientists who explore ancient biomolecular data for a full day of talks and a panel discussion on emerging themes in this area of study. From extinct species and ancient humans to historic collections, participants explored the many ways ancient biomolecules are transforming our understanding of life on Earth and how we study it—including at the Museum’s [Ancient Biomolecular Lab](#), which is funded by NSF and open to researchers from around the country.



Participants at the Funders Forum on Collective Impact for a Sustainable Future.

Photo: CBC/AMNH



Dr. Blair moderated a panel on emerging themes in ancient biomolecule research.

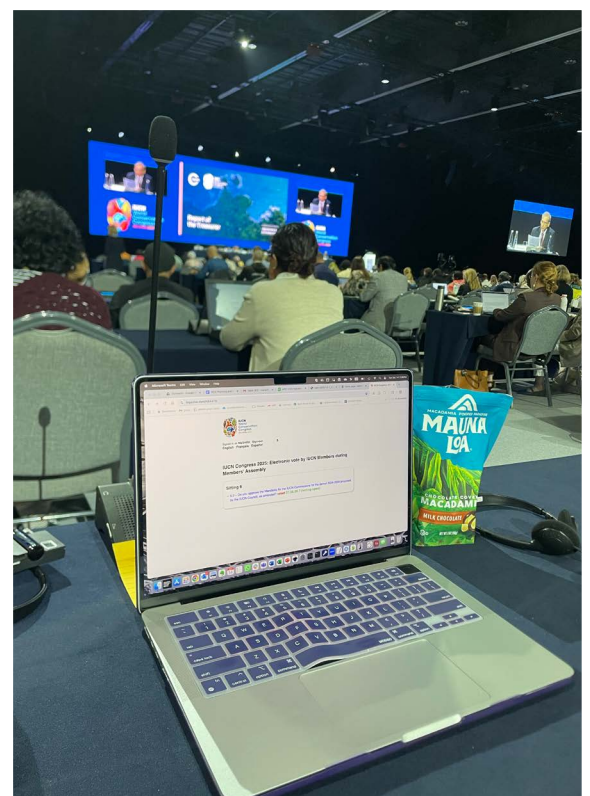
Photo: Daniel Kim/© AMNH

On the global arena, Dr. Blair, in her new role as CBC Associate Director, represented the Center and the Museum at numerous gatherings, including in April, at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and in July at the High-level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, where she was invited by the International Science Council to present on the importance of transdisciplinary science. More recently, Dr. Blair attended the 8th World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates between October 9-15, 2025. The Congress, held every four years, convened over ten thousand attendees, including leaders from government, civil society, conservation organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, faith and spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia. Dr. Blair co-led a session with Lakota scientist Yvette Running Horse Collin, in which they presented a newly developed—and successfully applied—model for equitable and respectful collaboration between Indigenous and western scientific systems for a sustainable future.

The Congress aimed to set a global vision for nature conservation for the next 20 years. Among the 148 Resolutions adopted by IUCN Members was the first policy on synthetic biology in relation to nature conservation, a motion to recognize ecocide as a crime, and motions to strengthen governance and inclusion. At its closing, the Congress called upon the global community to catalyze urgent, practical, and impactful actions in five key directions to pursue a just world that values and conserves nature: to reaffirm nature as the foundation of human and planetary well-being; to strengthen multilateralism and collective action; to advance justice and inclusive participation; advance science, knowledge, innovation and education; and scale up and align resources for nature and climate action.



Presenter from herding communities shared views on land fragmentation and Indigenous resilience at a side event co-organized by Dr. Blair at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



Voting on proposed policy resolutions at the World Conservation Congress.

# Exhibitions and Outreach

## Catch the CBC online or onsite!

In May, CBC collaborated with the Museum's Public Programs team to hold the 2025 Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series Panel Discussion. It took place during the Margaret Mead Film Festival and complemented the festival programming. Moderated by Dr. Blair, the panelists Vera Solovyeva and Maida Eira Andersson shared Indigenous perspectives on kinship with nature, rooted in the traditions of the Arctic. The conversation was followed by a screening of *Folktales*, a film about a Norwegian folk high school located above the Arctic Circle—weaving another thread in the rich tapestry of how humans, animals, and the environment are deeply entwined in northern landscapes.



Dr. Blair with panelists Vera Solovyeva and Maida Eira Andersson at the Margaret Mead Film Festival.

Photo: Daniel Kim/© AMNH



Dr. Porzecanski moderated a conversation with the director and producer of *The Shepherd* and *The Bear*, a film about human-wildlife conflict, at the Margaret Mead Film Festival.

More recently, the CBC worked closely with colleagues across the Museum to bring to fruition an ambitious set of programs during Climate Week NYC (September 19–26, 2025). The CBC was a co-designer and co-host of the Museum's Climate Assembly, an event which invited participants to roll up their sleeves and engage in in-depth conversation about flood resilience policies for the city. Over 60 participants gathered in small groups to share perspectives, hear from neighbors, and imagine how New Yorkers can adapt and thrive in a changing climate. The event was a collaboration with the Global Citizens' Assembly, The Assembly Project, and The Hannah Arendt Center's Democracy Innovation Hub at Bard College.



Participants in the Climate Assembly included Division Chair & Curator of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Dr. Nathalie Goodkin.



Photos: Daniel Kim/© AMNH

In addition, Dr. Barber and Dr. Porzecanski were among the scientists who advised on a suite of Climate Week installations to spotlight climate change's impacts and solutions. Eight Museum dioramas were reimaged with overlays, interactive media, and graphics to show how ecosystems—from forests and oceans to tundras and grasslands—are shifting under environmental stressors.

In the media, Dr. Barber's research on bat-moth interactions was prominently featured in a recent documentary mini-series on PBS, [Bugs That Rule the World](#) (2025; research in Ecuador).

Dr. Porzecanski was featured in [Cráneo](#), the #1 podcast for children, delivered in Spanish and produced by Cumbre Kids, where she explained what biodiversity is, why we should care, and how we can sustain it. The episode was one of ten episodes in a series Cumbre Kids and PBS Nature presented for Hispanic Heritage Month. The series received nearly 100,000 episode plays, 27,000 hours of listener engagement, along with more than 250,000 views and more than 5,000 likes and comments on social media platforms.



We continue to share our work through social media, you can find us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)!

Fall 2025

Publications

Beeco, J.A., Anderson, S.J., Giumetti, G., White, J., Gibson, A., Newton, J., Crump, M., Corsini, M., Lawson, S., Taff, D., Newman, P., **Barber, J.R.** (2025). Night lights versus conservation dreams: balancing human preferences with conservation goals in protected areas for sustainable nature-based noctourism. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2025.2531388>

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Sedlock, J.L., Almazan, M.L.P., Hadi, B.A.R., Gomes, D.G.E., **Barber, J.R.** (2025) Dispersing rice-associated arthropods ignore a phantom ultrasonic insect chorus. *The Open Agriculture Journal* 19. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/0118743315389873250624220003>

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### Presentations & Workshops Led

**Barber, J.R.** Animal Behavior Society meetings. Plenary with Akito Kawahara: The bat-moth arms race. Baltimore, USA. July 8–12, 2025.

**Barber, J.R.** The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life. Keynote Address: Background acoustics in terrestrial ecology. Prague, Czech Republic, June 29–July 4, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Mapping futures: Technology, Indigenous knowledge, and mobility in the Arctic. Invited panelist. Arctic Circle Assembly. Reykjavik, Iceland. October 17, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Indigenous knowledge leading transdisciplinary science to action for SDG implementation in the Arctic. Invited talk. "Science Day 2025: Unlocking tomorrow's solutions, today", hosted by the International Science Council at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. New York, USA. July 25, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Museomics for primate conservation. Invited Symposium Presentation. 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Antananarivo, Madagascar. July 21, 2025. <https://council.science/events/science-day-2025/>

**Blair, M.E.** Invited Keynote. Science and Nature Program Graduation, American Museum of Natural History. New York, USA. May 15, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Invited Panel Moderator. "Humans and Nature in the Arctic: Indigenous Perspectives." The 2025 Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series Panel Discussion at the Margaret Mead Film Festival, American Museum of Natural History. New York, USA. May 4, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Predicting the future of biodiversity under climate change. Invited lecture. Sustainable Development Program at Columbia University. New York, USA. April 28, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.** Invited Panel Moderator. "Challenges of Land Fragmentation and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Implementation." Side Event at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). New York, USA. April 22, 2025.

**Blair, M.E.**, Nguyen, T.A., **Lopez, D.**, Covert, H., Trinh-Dinh, H., et al. A collaborative modeling workflow to inform priorities for gibbon conservation under climate change in Vietnam. Podium Presentation. 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Antananarivo, Madagascar. July 22, 2025.

Orkin, J.D., Kuderna, L., Hermosilla-Albala, N., Fontseré, C., Aylward, M., Janiak, M., Andriaholinirina, N., Balaesque, P., **Blair, M.E.**, et al. Ecological and anthropogenic effects on the genomic diversity of lemurs in Madagascar. Invited Symposium Presentation. 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Antananarivo, Madagascar. July 21, 2025.

Penna, A., **Blair, M.E.**, Hawkins, M., Kistler, L., Pozzi, L. How many babies in the bush? Reevaluating species diversity and evolutionary history of western dwarf galagos (*Galagoides*) in Africa's Guineo-Congolian forests. Invited Symposium Presentation. 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Antananarivo, Madagascar. July 21, 2025.

**Porzecanski, A.L.** Invited Keynote. Science and Nature Program Graduation, American Museum of Natural History. New York, USA. May 12, 2025.

**Porzecanski, A.L., Betley, E., Blair, M., Gazit, N., Sigouin, A.** Workshop on Elements of Indigenous Peoples' Guardianship. Biocultural Stewardship and Conservation. Hosted in partnership with Nia Tero. New York, USA. April 23–24, 2025.

**Porzecanski, A.L., Betley, E., Gomez\*, A., Sigouin, A.** What makes change transformative? Workshop for Funders Forum on Collective Impact for a Sustainable Future. New York, USA. September 22, 2025.

Running Horse Collin, Y., **Blair, M.E.** Indigenous and Western Scientific Collaboration for Conservation: Following a New Path Toward our Sustainable Future. IUCN World Conservation Congress. Showcase. Abu Dhabi, UAE. October 11, 2025.

Weisrock, D., Everson, K.M., Pozzi, L., Barrett, M., Donohue, M., Yoder, A.D., Radespiel, U., Rasoloarison, R., Rasoloharijaona, S., Roos, C., Salmons, J., Sabatier, P., **Blair, M.E.**, et al. What phylogenomic data can tell us about the tempo of diversification of Strepsirrhine primates. Invited Symposium Presentation. 30th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Antananarivo, Madagascar. July 21, 2025.

## Media & Outreach

**Barber, J.**, Kawahara, A. (Featured). "The Evolutionary Race Between Moths and Bats". Bugs that Rule the World. PBS. May 12, 2025. <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-evolutionary-race-between-moths-and-bats-0x0bdf/>

**Blair, M.E.** (Featured). "Unlocking tomorrow's scientific solutions today for SDGs," By Ruwoku, E. University World News. July 27, 2025. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20250725105859817>

**Blair, M.E.** (Featured). "On the Side Lines of UNPFII: Reindeer Herders Call for Action on Land Fragmentation and Indigenous Rights." By Tonkopeeva, M. Reindeer Herding and Resilience News Post. April 22, 2025. <https://reindeerherdingandresilience.org/news/on-the-side-lines-of-unpfii-reindeer-herders-call-for-action-on-land-fragmentation-and-indigenous-rights/>

**Le\*, M.D.** (Featured). "First full genome sequencing of the rare Saola species". Suck Hoe & Doi Song (Vietnamese Newspaper). May 6, 2025. <https://suckhoedoisong.vn/lan-dau-tien-giai-trinh-tu-toan-bo-gene-cua-loai-sao-la-quy-hiem-169250506170211865.htm>

**Porzecanski, A.L.** (Featured). "Biodiversidad: La imaginación de la Tierra" (Biodiversity: The imagination of the Earth). Featured interviewee on podcast Cráneo: ¡Ciencia para niños curiosos! Cumbre Kids and PBS Nature. September 23, 2025. <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/biodiversidad-la-imaginacion-de-la-tierra/33357/>