



Flamingo

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Contents

Editorial	3
M.J. Anderson, K.N. Randle, D.D. Hernandez & T.S. Ritter Lateral stamp-feeding behaviour in Caribbean flamingos	5
D. Lomas A short history of pink long legs at Chester Zoo	10
P. Rose Ideas for integrated flamingo conservation: One Plan Approaches, ecology, and management	16
P. Rose & P. Vaughan Celebrating 60 years of flamingo care and a 75 th anniversary for WWT	29
F. Arengo In memoriam: Dr William G. Conway	35
Flamingo related publications 2021	39
Global flamingo population estimates 2021	43
Flamingo author guidelines	45

Editorial

Welcome to the fourth instalment of *Flamingo*, the e-version of the FSG's popular annual journal. We are pleased to be able to continue to bring you a new volume of *Flamingo* after its relaunch in 2018. It's especially pleasing that, after another difficult year of so much uncertainty and upheaval, we have still managed to produce our annual publication.

The global Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact on daily life, and this is reflected in this being a shorter version of *Flamingo* than we have seen previously. Flamingo conservation is still vitally important, and it is essential that organisations involved in flamingo management and the restoration, conservation and protection of their fragile wetland ecosystems survive this period of global upheaval. The FSG has continued to work hard throughout the course of the pandemic to highlight the importance of wetlands and wild places to the birds themselves and to human populations too. We still managed to run a very successful International Flamingo Day, for the second time, back in April.

This edition of *Flamingo* highlights how remote data collection techniques can yield important information on the birds' behaviour patterns and shows how scientists can adapt their research styles to use new methods to continue the collection of important data when working remotely. *Flamingo 2021* also highlights the importance of the One Plan Approach to species conservation—the idea of a sliding scale of conservation management between in situ (in the wild) and ex situ (outside of the species' natural range) facilities in the planning and execution of successful conservation action. Flamingos are excellent candidate species to be considered for such integrated population and conservation management.

Historical pieces also feature this year, with papers detailing the past management of flamingos at different zoological organisations that celebrated milestone anniversaries this year. Such retrospectives allow us a chance to pause and reflect on past hard work and conservation efforts to see how far we have come, and what horizon scanning we need to do for the future.

In 2021 the FSG was sad to hear of the death of one of its most ardent supports, Dr William "Bill" Conway of the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York. Dr Conway was an expert on all flamingo species, helping to display all six species at the Bronx Zoo many decades ago, and he collaborated with many other researchers and field biologists to further understand the ecological requirements and conservation needs of the South American flamingos in particular. His boundless enthusiasm and energy for flamingo (specific) and wildlife (general) biology and conservation will be sadly missed and we send our best wishes and condolences to his family.

We are accepting articles for *Flamingo* e5, due out in December 2022. Given that flamingo habitats worldwide are threatened, it is critical that we compile and disseminate research and studies on flamingos to the widest audience. Long or short reports, original research or descriptive pieces are welcome. Guidelines for publishing can be found on the FSG's website (<http://www.flamingo-sg.org/journal/>) and at the back of this volume.

I thank my colleagues Cathy King (co-chair of the FSG), Dr Felicity Arengo and Dr Arnaud Bechet for their assistance with this edition. I especially thank Felicity Arengo for her moving and fitting tribute to Dr William Conway that forms part of this edition of *Flamingo*. And I take this opportunity to thank Dr Maria Cecilia Chiale and Enver Ortiz Lopez for their help with the FSG's social media pages and wider outreach.

With very best wishes for this holiday season.

Dr Paul Rose

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