

MY PASSION ISN'T ONLY FOR  
TAKING PICTURES; I AM HAPPIEST  
WHEN ABLE TO SHARE THE  
SOUL-FILLING, EMOTIONAL  
EXPERIENCE I HAVE WHILE IN  
THE FIELD. IT IS UP TO THOSE  
OF US WHO KNOW **WE CANNOT  
LIVE WITHOUT WILD THINGS TO**  
INSPIRE THOSE WHO BELIEVE  
THEY CAN.



THIS is MY WILD LIFE.®

“OUR WORLD IS FULL OF UNIQUE,  
FRAGILE, AND IRREPLACEABLE  
BEAUTY. IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULT  
TIMES, IT IS THE NATURAL WORLD  
THAT HEALED, CALMED, AND  
INSPIRED ME. I REMAIN DESPERATE  
TO PROTECT IT. EVERY TINY,  
AMAZING PIECE OF IT.”

LAURA CRAWFORD WILLIAMS

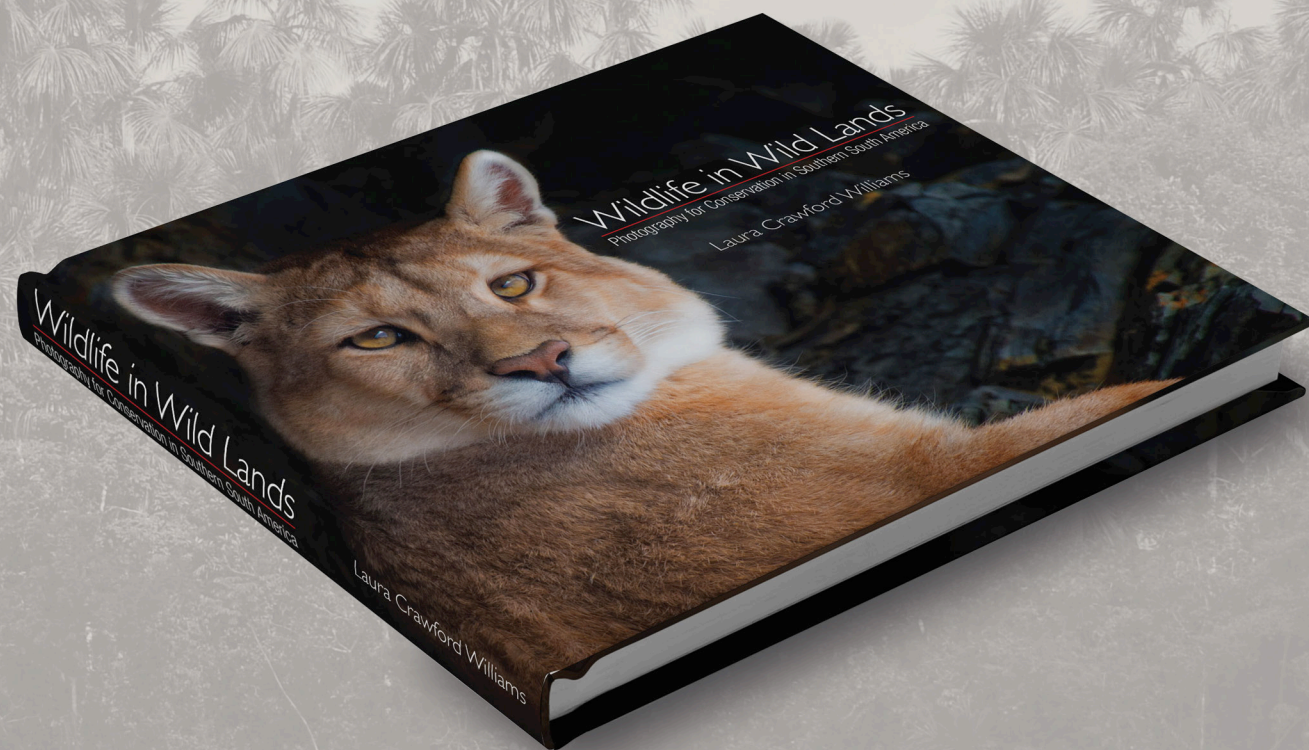
THE STORY BEHIND HOW IT ALL BEGAN

I am Laura Crawford Williams,  
and I have been a professional  
wildlife photographer for  
seventeen years.

I am self-publishing a 244-page, fine-art photography book through my newly created press company, My Wild Life Press, LLC. The book is titled *Wildlife in Wild Lands: Photography for Conservation in Southern South America* and it is the result of an 8-year, 275,000 km journey photographing wild species in some of the most dramatic landscapes on Earth.

It was November of 2007 when I first traveled to southern South America. My photo destination was the Pampas grasslands of Argentina, with German Ambrosetti as my guide. At the time, we had no idea this trip would lead to our 8-year partnership as photographer and videographer. We've helped dozens of individuals and organizations working to protect threatened species in countries like Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil.

In 2015, the National Parks Foundation of Argentina, directed by Claudio Hirsch, Daniel Hirsch, and Dylan Williams, approached me about **creating a book of my wildlife photography** from southern South America. As I thought more about the project, it became clear that the photographs were merely a small part of a much larger story. Conservation efforts are often rewarded with little financial compensation, despite the extraordinary amount of time spent and effort made by those committed to preserving the beauty of our planet. The commitment of these champions is truly an altruistic and wholehearted labor of love! This book **celebrates these individuals**, as well as my experiences working with them.



A LABOR OF LOVE

## A dedication to life and love of all things wild!

**For those of us who carry a love and appreciation of nature, it has never been more important to influence and change the minds of those who do not.**

The human race has achieved unbelievable things, but we claim and transform wild places too easily. As a result, species are disappearing at an unprecedented rate. The reality of a well-documented extinction crisis remains. In a world full of people searching for purpose and meaning, why would we ignore the continued elimination of its wonders?

It is unrealistic to believe that a government or a part of society alone can guarantee the protection of habitats and species. We must all participate as citizens, organizations, federal entities, and local governments. This project is my labor of love to that end. I hope to inspire in others, my own desperate desire to protect the natural world – every tiny, amazing piece of it!



## THE RICHNESS THAT SURROUNDS US IS CHANGING AT AN ACCELERATED SPEED...

Our planet is undergoing significant changes due to human activities. This context of climate change and extinction crisis obligates us to think in new paradigms. It is essential to understand that ecology is not at odds with development.

*Foreword Written by:  
President Mauricio Macri of Argentina*

Within the pages of this beautifully designed book, you'll discover a breathtaking collection of images.

***Wildlife in Wild Lands*** contains a unique portfolio of images that represent an incredibly diverse collection of animals found within the Southern Cone, many unknown to the rest of the world.

Six chapters contain 150 stunning photographs of 113 different wildlife species; each with thought-provoking captions describing behavior, conservation challenges, and status. An additional chapter titled, "Between Frames," shares photos and stories of our adventures working in the field. All text is in English as well as Spanish, and most of the images have never been published anywhere but in this book.

I hope that *Wildlife in Wild Lands* will inspire present and future generations through its beauty, thought-provoking content, and philosophic musings. More importantly, I wish to promote and reinforce the message that a balance between progress and conservation can be achieved. President Mauricio Macri of Argentina joins me in this call to action. He graciously wrote the foreword for the book.



A wide-angle photograph of a misty, mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense, dark forest. In the middle ground, a waterfall cascades down a rocky cliff, partially obscured by mist. A bird is captured in flight, its wings spread, against the misty background. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

# LIFE & LANDS

Over the eight years spent in southern South America, and across the 275,000 kilometers we traveled, we were fortunate to interact with a variety of different species. Throughout the pages of *Wildlife in Wild Lands*, we've selected 113 different species to focus on, with thought-provoking captions that describe their behavior, habitat, and conservation status.



#### Puma

Puma (*Puma concolor*)

A shallow cave is a perfect place for this Puma to rest before hunting. Pumas have the most extensive range of any terrestrial wild animal in the Americas, and they are notoriously difficult to find.



**Neotropical Cormorant**

Cormorán Neotropical (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

A Neotropical Cormorant flies across a misty channel of water between floating grass islands in the wetlands of Esteros del Iberá, Argentina.



**Patagonian Hog-Nosed Skunk**

Zorrino Patagónico (*Conepatus humboldtii*)

The Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk will stamp it's feet, as pictured, when feeling threatened, just like many other skunk species.

**Red Deer** (Right Page, Bottom Image)

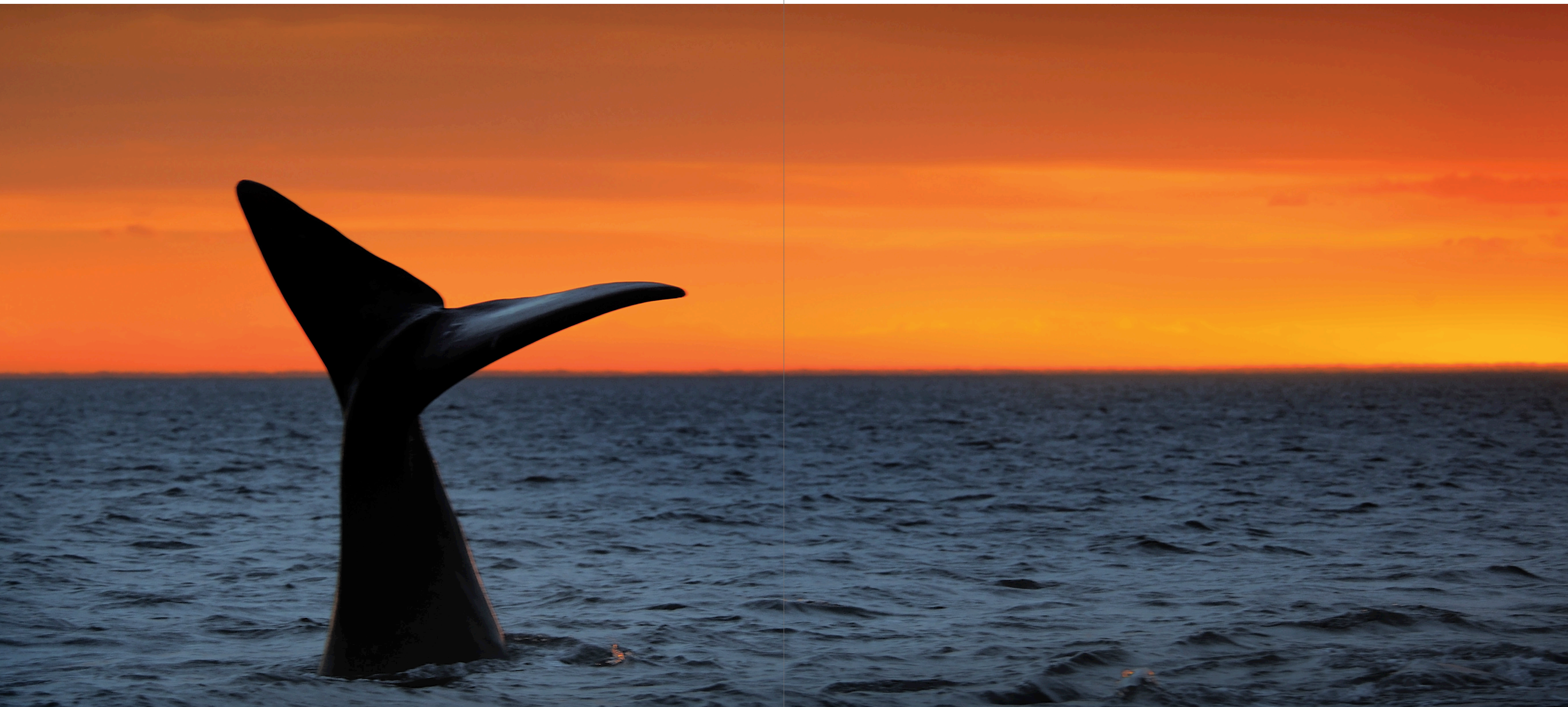
Ciervo Colorado (*Cervus elaphus*)

The Red Deer is an exotic (introduced) species in South America. It competes with native species, such as the endangered Huemul (South Andean Deer), for territory as well as food.

**Puma** (Right Page, Top Image)

Puma (*Puma concolor*)





**Southern Right Whale**

Ballena Franca Austral (*Eubalaena australis*)

A Southern Right Whale, one of only a few hundred that remain in population, flukes (raises its tail) against a beautiful sunset.



**Yellow Anaconda**

Anaconda Amarilla (*Eunectes notaeus*)

The Yellow Anaconda is the second largest boa species in South America; they can grow between three and four meters in length.



**Southern Screamer**

Chajá Común (*Chauna torquata*)

Newly hatched Southern Screamers sit together in their nest. As adults, these birds establish monogamous relationships that last their lifetime.

# Wildlife in Wild Lands: Photography for Conservation in Southern South America

**AUTHOR**

Laura Crawford Williams

**PUBLISHER**

My Wild Life Press

**PUBLICATION DATE**

November 1, 2017

**SIZE**

11.75" x 9.5"

**PAGES**

244 pages, 6 chapters

**SPECIES**

113 different species

**LANGUAGES**

English, Spanish

**BONUS CONTENT**

"Between Frames" Bonus Chapter

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Special edition hardcover includes dust

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**Wildlife in Wild Lands** is being printed in 6 colors on soft-touch Aqueous paper. The uniquely beautiful photographs are true, fine-art quality. There are no books with this unique collection of animals. With each species, we provide the Latin names and the common names (in English and Spanish). Enjoy thought-provoking captions and learn about each species' unique conservation status.





## MEET LAURA

Laura Crawford Williams is a professional wildlife and conservation photographer. Laura traveled through southern South America with videographer German Ambrosetti. Together, they have explored some of the most remote areas of countries, such as Argentina and Chile, assisting conservation-minded professionals with photography and video.



MEET THE LADY BEHIND THE LENS

## Becoming a wildlife photographer was never my plan... was it destiny?

Before becoming a professional wildlife photographer, I earned undergraduate degrees in visual art and scientific illustration. For advanced studies, I attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed a master's degree in biomedical art.

When combined with my professional experience designing and producing software, I developed a unique blend of scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and visual skill. I believe it is this interesting mix that gave me an advantage to becoming successful in the competitive world of professional wildlife and conservation photography.

My passion isn't only for taking pictures. I am happiest when able to share the soul-filling, emotional experience I have in the field. I work to inspire emotional connection and intellectual curiosity. Success is achieved when I can infect others with the same excitement, amusement, and awe that I feel when working with wildlife. That is the most important part of what I love to do!

# THE TRUTH IS, I NEVER INTENDED TO BECOME A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER...

I was simply doing what I love to do. I believe that every human is born with a sense of wonder and an attraction to nature. This connection either develops into an ecological conscience or is forgotten as we mature. It is up to those of us who know we cannot live without wild things to inspire those who believe they can. Photography is an excellent way to do this, to elicit emotional response and connection!



# Getting to know Laura Crawford Williams

**Could you please tell our readers what inspired you to become a wildlife photographer?**

Before my life as a wildlife photographer, I worked for a newly established software company during the .com boom of the 1990s. It was a very stressful time. By the time the company sold in 1999, I was thoroughly burned-out. To recharge my depleted battery, I would walk with my dogs in the forests and prairies surrounding my home. A creative spark was ignited and I began carrying a camera. In 2001, my first published images appeared in National Wildlife magazine and by 2007, I had been published in National Geographic magazine. It felt like the pinnacle of success. But, the truth is, I never intended to become a professional wildlife photographer. I was simply doing what I love to do.

**How has your undergraduate education in fine art and scientific illustration, as well as your graduate education in biomedical arts influenced your photography?**

Scientific and medical arts require effort from both sides of the brain, left for logic and right for creativity. You must pull aesthetic and reasoning sensibilities together in order to tell an accurate, visual story. Storytelling is the key! I have no doubt that the skills I learned as a scientific and medical illustrator/ animator provided the foundation for my success as a wildlife photographer. I developed an unusual blend of scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and visual skill that has served me well.

**Which photographers do you most admire and have they influenced your style?**

I am inspired by the commitment, artistic talent, and storytelling abilities of photographers like Nick Nicklin and Tim Laman. Wildlife artists, like Robert Bateman and Ray Harris-Ching, inspire me as well. I admire how Bateman breaks the ‘standard’ rules of composition so intentionally and successfully, while Ching is a master of motion, color, and texture.

**What do you consider to be your greatest success (or successes) so far in your photography career?**

I am inspired by the commitment, artistic talent, and storytelling abilities of photographers like Nick I once felt that being published in National Geographic magazine and by National Geographic Books was the epitome of success. It was certainly an important milestone for me in terms of feeling confident in this field. However, I no longer consider it my greatest success. I am most proud of this book. It took eight years of travel and two years of production for it to become a reality. I am thrilled to be a voice for those working so diligently on behalf of wildlife and wild lands conservation in southern South America, as well as for the unique wildlife species found there. I am also proud of myself for steering this project to completion as an independent publisher.

**What has been your greatest challenge as a photographer that you’ve overcome in getting to where you’re at today?**

My life changed considerably just after the National Parks Foundation of Argentina approached me about creating this book. I faced ‘real-life’ crises that upended my world and pushed me into places I never expected to be. There is no doubt it had an effect on how quickly I was able to finish producing the book. I was struggling to re-invent my life as I wrote the words and assembled the images. But, the experience gave me focus and kept me grounded with the realization of one simple truth --nature heals and inspires.



## LOVE & SUPPORT

***Wildlife in Wild Lands*** is a true labor of love. The book was created to acknowledge and honor the tremendous efforts made by scientists, researchers, volunteers, and students working for conservation in southern South America. The book honors their dedication and sacrifice in addition to celebrating the unique wildlife found in one of the most diverse, amazing, and dramatic places on Earth. **This collection of images would not exist without the amazing help received from each one of these generous individuals.**

# Kristine McDivitt Tompkins

**Co-founder of Tompkins Conservation and the Conservation Land Trust, and former CEO of Patagonia, Inc.**

tompkinsconservation.org, theconservationlandtrust.org

"I consider Laura Williams to be one of the best wildlife photographers working today, and we have been privileged to have her working inside some of our conservation areas in Chile and Argentina. There are plenty of photographers who are technically skilled, but Laura is tireless in her efforts and actively uses her photographs to protect those species and places that she has come to love—this, to me, is essential for photographers today, and she is one of the great defenders of wildlife."

# Rafael Smart

**President and co-founder of Cielos Patagónicos**

cielospatagonicos.com

"We understand that, in the past, man has not had an active role in caring for the environment—something that we should be leaders in conserving and regenerating. Above and beyond the basic role the state has in regards to the natural protected areas, the support of the private sector and the non-governmental organizations is indispensable in the execution of this massive task, part of which Laura Crawford Williams' wonderful book reflects."

# Alex Pryor

**Co-founder and Chief Cebador (brewer) at Guayaki Yerba Mate**

guayaki.com

"In the scale of modern society, the wildlife and ecosystems found in South America have intrinsic value. The current market demand for comfortable, user-friendly products is a major cause for the disappearance of wildlife and wild lands for the simple reason that this is where the major resources of raw material can be found. Yet, only a small percentage of protected areas remain worldwide. With this book, Fundación Parques Nacionales and Laura Crawford Williams offer us a key to opening a door toward protecting, and educating about, the value of wildlife and natural ecosystems that are so essential for our life-supporting systems on Earth. Wildlife and wild lands are not simply a source of natural capital for future generations; they are where we access the gene pool of millions of years of evolution. The universal energy capable of regenerating life for the next million years can be found in the complexity of the ecosystem needed to support Puma, to the smallest atom in a water molecule."

# Aves Argentinas

**Executive Director, Hernan Casañas**

avesargentinas.org.ar

"At Aves Argentinas, we've worked since 1916 to reevaluate the bond people have with their natural environment, dedicating spaces for nature lovers, developing conservation projects and activities, research, education, and spreading of that information. Because of this, we support this book, which awakens emotions and love for nature, and consequently, desires to protect it.

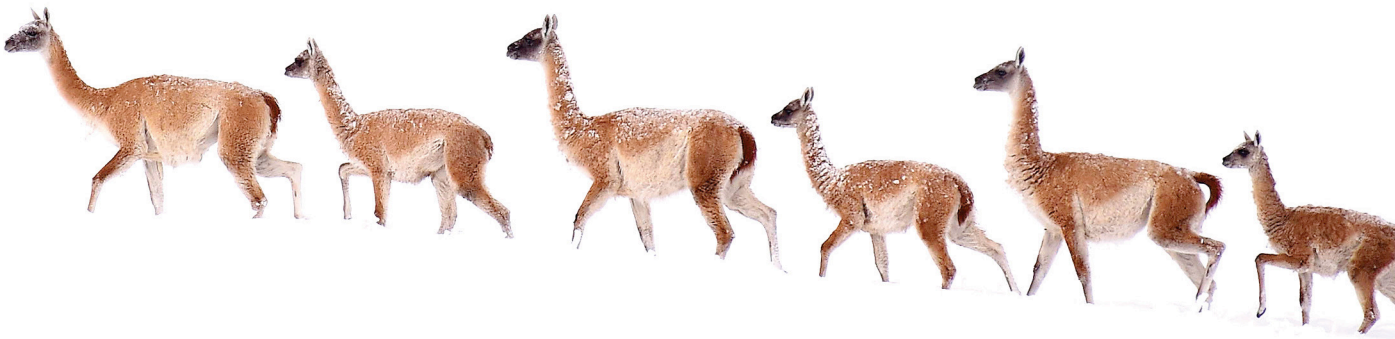
Aves Argentinas is a Buenos Aires-based organization committed to the conservation of wild bird species and the ecosystems in which they are found. Since 1916, it has been their mission to identify and study high-priority habitats for globally threatened species, promote conservation by increasing public awareness, and facilitate ornithological research and the communication of its results."

# Dr. Lorenzo Sympson

**President of the Sociedad Naturalista Andino Patagónica.**

facebook.com/SNAndinopatagonica

"I am very fortunate to have met the producers of Wildlife in Wild Lands. I recognize the time, effort, expertise, patience, and love that not only Laura, but the entire Frontera group and their many assistants have put into this project. As part of a regional NGO dedicated to the conservation of the Argentine Patagonian Andes, we heartily support this beautiful book. It is an extraordinary tool for any environmental education project. I am sure that this effort, and particularly Laura's photos, will bring everyone closer to one of the last wild places in this ever-changing world."



# WHAT WE PHOTOGRAPHED

Laura’s keen ability to evoke an emotional response within one brief, beautiful moment is what makes this collection of images so special. In addition to its beauty, the book is the first of its kind to assemble such a diverse and complete collection of the animals found within the Southern Cone. The beautiful imagery is only part of what this 244-page book has to offer, for it is intellectually compelling as well.

- Jaguar
- Ornate Hawk-eagle
- Brown-throated Sloth
- White Woodpecker
- Jabiru
- Rosy-billed Pochards
- Black and Gold Howler Monkey
- Common Vampire Bat
- South American Tapir
- Great White Egret
- Coypu
- Marsh Deer
- Yacare Caiman
- Blue-throated Macaw
- Hyacinth Macaw
- Capybara
- Ringed Kingfisher
- Toco Toucan
- Red-breasted Toucan
- Cururu Toad
- Yellow Anaconda
- Andean Condor
- Guanaco
- Chilean Torrent Duck
- Puma
- Flying Steamer Duck
- Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk
- South American Gray Fox
- Southern Crested Caracara
- Magellanic Horned Owl
- Black-chested Buzzard Eagle
- Rufous-chested Dotterel
- Vicuna
- Hooded Grebe
- Red Shoveler
- Lesser Rhea
- Chilean Flamingo
- Chilean Flicker
- Southern Viscacha
- Maned Wolf
- Pampas Deer
- Silver Teal
- Southern Screamer
- Argentine Black and White Tegu
- Rufous Hornero
- Cliff Swallow
- Southern Lapwing
- Strange-tailed Tyrant
- Red-legged Seriema
- Greater Rhea
- White-tufted Grebe
- Black-masked Finch
- Pampas Flicker
- Black-necked Swan
- Burrowing Owl
- Southern Crested Caracara
- Yellow Cardinal
- Chestnut-capped Blackbird
- Savanna Hawk
- Long-tailed Meadowlark
- Plains Viscacha
- Dolphin Gull
- Southern Elephant Seal
- Blue-eyed Cormorant
- Red-legged Cormorant
- Orca
- King Penguin
- Burrowing Parrot
- Turkey Vulture
- Black-browed Albatross
- Striated Caracara
- Chilean Skua
- Southern Rockhopper Penguin
- Magellanic Penguin
- Southern Giant Petrel
- Magellanic Oystercatcher
- Olrog’s Gull
- Gentoo Penguin
- Antarctic Skua
- Southern Right Whale
- Patagonian Crested Duck
- Chaco Golden Knee Tarantula
- Southern Mountain Cavy
- Variable Hawk
- Puna Flamingo
- Southern 3-banded Armadillo
- Long-tailed Meadowlark
- Patagonian Mara
- American Black Vulture
- Giant Anteater
- Short-eared Owl
- Geoffroy’s Cat
- Green-barred Woodpecker
- Azara’s Night Monkey
- Crab-eating Fox
- Common Barn Owl
- Blue-crowned Parakeet
- Faciated Tiger-heron
- Spectacled Owl
- Black Hawk-eagle
- Gilded Sapphire
- Dusk-legged Guan
- Magellanic Woodpecker
- Austral Pygmy Owl
- Neotropical River Otter
- Red Deer
- Red Brocket
- Southern Tamandua
- Austral Parakeet
- Bolivian Squirrel Monkey
- Llama

# WHERE WE PHOTOGRAPHED

Wetland, grassland, desert, mountain, forest, shoreline—there is no habitat that Laura and German, have not explored. They traveled over a total of 270,000 km throughout southern South America and photographed the species chosen for the book within 25 different eco-regions across Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and several Atlantic islands.

## Eco-Regions

- Altiplano, Andean Plateau
- Amazon Rainforest, Brazil & Bolivia
- Andean Patagonia
- Atlantic Coast Restingas
- Atlantic Forest, Argentina
- Atlantic Forest, Brazil
- Atlantic Islands
- Coastal Patagonia, Argentina & Chile
- Espinal, Argentina
- Gran Chaco, Argentina
- Gran Chaco, Bolivia & Argentina
- Iberá Wetlands
- Iguazu Falls, Argentina & Brazil
- Pampas Grasslands
- Pantanal, Brazil
- Paraná Flooded Savanna
- Patagonian Forest, Argentina & Chile
- Patagonian Steppe, Argentina & Chile
- Salt Flats, Argentina
- Southern Andean Steppe
- Southern Andean Yungas
- Tropical Savanna, Bolivia
- Valdes Peninsula
- Valdivian Temperate Forest
- Yungas, Argentina

## Parks

- Calilegua National Park
- Chaco National Park
- Copo National Park
- Cueva de las Manos
- El Palmar National Park
- El Rey National Park
- Esteros del Iberá Provincial Reserve
- Iguazú National Park
- Ischigualasto Provincial Park
- Laguna Blanca National Park
- Laguna Brava Provincial Reserve
- Laguna Llanquanelo Provincial Reserve
- Laguna Mar Chiquita
- Laguna Nimez Reserve
- Lanin National Park
- Los Alerces National Park
- Los Cardones National Park
- Los Glaciares National Park
- Monte León National Park
- Mount Fitzroy - El Chaltén
- Nahuel Huapi NP
- Patagonia National Park
- Perito Moreno NP
- Punta Tombo Provincial Reserve
- Quebrada de Humahuaca
- Quebrada de Humahuaca UNESCO site
- Reserva Luro
- Reserva Mar Chiquita
- Salar de Pocitos
- Salar del Diablo
- Salinas Grandes
- Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes
- Talampaya National Park
- Tierra del Fuego NP
- Torres del Paine NP
- Valdes Peninsula UNESCO site
- Valle de la Luna



**South American Gray Fox**  
*Zorro Gris (Lycalopex griseus)*

It looks like this South American Gray Fox is laughing for the camera! These foxes help to control the exploding population of European Hare in South American countries. The hare was introduced in the 1800s and causes major damage to ecosystems and crops.

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**TOMPKINS**  
CONSERVATION





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