



112

### The Shipwreck Shark

Once the terror of the seas, oceanic whitetips have all but vanished.

By Glenn Hodges

Photographs by Brian Skerry

Oceanic whitetips slice through the water near the Bahamas' Cat Island, believed to be one of the last havens for large numbers of the sharks.

30

### DNA Revolution

Scientists now have a new tool to alter the DNA of living organisms. Should they use it?

By Michael Specter

Photographs by Greg Girard

56

### Science vs. Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes spread some of the world's most dangerous diseases—and we still don't know how to stop them.

By Cynthia Gorney

60

### Pandas Gone Wild

The Chinese know how to breed giant pandas. To release them in the wild requires protecting habitat as well as the bears.

By Jennifer S. Holland

Photographs by Ami Vitale

86

### To the Last Drop

The Ogallala aquifer feeds a multibillion-dollar farm industry. What happens when the water is gone?

By Laura Parker

Photographs by Randy Olson

### 126 Proof | Net Worth

An artist makes scientific portraits of birds.

By Christy Ullrich Barcus

Photographs by Todd Forsgren

**On the Cover** DNA is in every living thing, and scientists have learned to edit it. "We now have a power over species of all kinds that we never thought possible," says law professor Hank Greely. *Art by Bose Collins*

**Corrections and Clarifications** Go to [ngm.com/corrections](http://ngm.com/corrections).