

EDUCATION

Mississippi State University

May 2018

College of Forest Resources

M.S. Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Relevant Coursework: Conservation Ecology and Restoration Management, Upland Avian Ecology, Advanced Ecology, and Landscape Ecology

GPA: 3.76 /4.00

State University of New York

May 2014

College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry

B.S. Wildlife Science with Honors

Relevant Coursework: Applied Wildlife Science, Wildlife Ecology and Management, Ecological Monitoring and Biological Assessment, Dendrology, Ornithology and Advanced GIS.

GPA: 3.85 /4.00

WORK EXPERIENCE

Woodpecker Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy Dec. 2017-Present

Currently engaged in the management of red-cockaded woodpeckers on private lands in the Red Hills region of northern Florida and southern Georgia. Duties include RCW cavity inventory, cavity management and installation, RCW translocations, and prescribed fire operations. Other duties include research involving the RCW and other fire-dependent bird species such as Bachman's sparrow, grasshopper sparrows, and the brown-headed nuthatch.

Research Projects

- RCW tree selection in new and mature populations
- Southern flying squirrel repellents for RCW management using capsaicin
- Bachman sparrow occupancy in the southeastern U.S.

Graduate Research Assistant, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS Jul. 2016- Dec. 2017

Advisor: Dr. Scott A. Rush

Conducted research on southern flying squirrel spatial and trophic ecology and deterrent methods as they relate to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) and its habitat in the southeast. Work involved the construction of 400 bluebird boxes and long hours in the field including day and night work throughout the year, in all weather conditions. Work included public presentations and collaboration with state and federal lands including three different agencies. Analysis was mainly done in program R and included spatially explicit capture-recapture, linear regression, generalized linear mixed-effects models, t-tests, and Bayesian statistics.

Other duties involved being a teaching assistant for five separate courses on the topics of statistics, taxonomy of birds and mammals and principles in wildlife science. I also aided other projects such as bird banding at S.D.H. Noxubee Refuge's MAPS station and extraction and banding at the Whigg Meadow (TN) banding station.

Robert T. Meyer

(716) 247-2786
rmeyer@talltimbers.org

Biological Technician, S.D.H. Noxubee N.W.R., Brooksville, MS

Feb. 2015- Jul. 2016

Supervisor: Steven E. Lewis

Endangered Species Work

Main duties included catching and banding adult and nestling RCWs and recording sex, age and weight. Climbing upwards of 65ft with Swedish sectional ladders to clean/drain cavities, place restrictors around enlarged natural entrances, and to remove pest species such as southern flying squirrels to provide suitable cavities for nesting season. I installed several insets in loblolly pine trees and participated in over a dozen prescribed fire operations in cluster habitats. I created a Microsoft Access databases to house and better organize refuge RCW data as well as manipulate ArcGIS data to organize shapefiles into geodatabases. I also received Star Award for involvement with the Friends of Noxubee.

Other Biological Work

Other duties include prescribed burning around RCW cavity trees which involved operating a type 6 engine and mopping up duties. I assisted the refuge biologist with hog trapping. I participated in water management by taking water level measurements and adding and removing stop logs in water control structures on the refuge. Assisted with minor maintenance and repair projects on the refuge. Operated mist-nets for song bird and bat capture. Conducted bat acoustic surveys using Anabat detectors. I also participated in golden eagle camera trapping including sorting camera photos and baiting the sites for eagles.

Visitor Services

Preparing hunter check stations for the spring turkey hunt. Answering phone calls and interacting with the public both in the visitor center and in the field. I've led talks with the refuge biologist about current management practices at Noxubee to both the public and to students from local colleges.

Quail Research Technician, UT at Knoxville, Drakesboro, KY.

Aug. 2014-Feb. 2015

Supervisor: Jarred Brooke [Advisor: Dr. Greg Harper]

Quail Technician Duties

Worked as part of a team to trap, band, and equip radio collars on northern bobwhite quail as part of a study to determine fall and winter habitat selection on the Peabody Wildlife Management Area. I built and deployed funnel traps and then set and checked traps for birds daily. I independently tracked approximately 40 collared birds using radio telemetry, 5 times per week to obtain GPS locations. I also set up camera traps to determine possible quail movements around funnel trap sites to determine reasons for trap success or failure. To catch quail that did not enter traps we cast-netted collared birds at night to catch the rest of the covey similar to a "Judas-bird" technique. We conducted covey count surveys in the morning using methods similar to that of point counts. If a collared bird was found dead we would determine the cause of death based on field forensics.

Hunter Check Station

Our field crew also aided Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources with operating the hunter check station for quail. We gave dog collars and GPS units to hunters to determine hunter and dog habitat use and how that relates to where the quail are. We would then download the data once the hunters returned using Basecamp and DNRGarmen. While operating check stations we obtained crop and wing donations from hunter harvests and identified crop contents (typically plant seeds) to determine dietary preferences of the quail. We also obtained crop and wing donations from hunter harvests and identified crop contents (typically plant seeds) to determine dietary preferences of the quail.

Rodent Research Technician, UNC at Greensboro, Scooba, MS. May 2014- Aug. 2014

Supervisor: Angela Larsen [Advisor: Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell]

Aided doctoral student studying the effect of switchgrass intercropping in pine plantations on rodent behavior. Main duties included trapping, tagging and collaring rodents in the field using Sherman and Longworth traps daily using ATVs. We recorded the species, sex, age, weight and reproductive status of captured individuals. We tracked and biangulated collared rodents three times per day for several weeks as well to determine microhabitat preferences. We set up acoustic devices near nest sites to detect changes in rodent vocalization with pine plantation treatments. Conducted vegetation sampling including ground cover and vertical cover using Nudds board and percent cover methods.

Lab Technician, Limnology Department at SUNY ESF, Syracuse, NY. Jan. 2012 – May 2014

Supervisor: Kimberly Schulz

Responsible for the upkeep of zooplankton/algae cultures as well as invertebrate tanks used for classroom education and research. Lab duties included cleaning glassware and lab equipment in acid baths as well as sterilizing glassware using an autoclave. I also assisted graduate students with projects when needed.

Horticulture Intern, Forest Lawn, Buffalo, NY. Summer 2013

Supervisor: Matthew Quirey

Assisted with injection of ash trees to prevent emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) infestation. Cared for young and old trees on 269 acres of land. Removed dead and diseased trees. Used 4x4 manual transmission utility vehicles

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Rocket-netting Turkey, NYS DEC, Cortland, NY March 2014

- Aided NYS DEC for part of a state-wide hen mortality study
- Attached backpack radio-transmitters to hens and banded hens

Deer Capture, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Covington, PA. January 2014

- Captured white-tailed deer as part of a state-wide study on population demographics

Trail Maintenance, Adirondack Mountain Club, Keene Valley, NY. Fall 2012

- Cleared drainage ditches and removed debris along several miles of trail

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- National member of The Wildlife Society 2013 – present

POSTERS/PRESENTATIONS

- Southeastern Bat Diversity Network in Ashville, NC February 2017
Presented poster on my research on southern flying squirrels
- New York State Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Oxford, NY April 2014
Presented poster on Small Mammal Mycophagy in Central Adirondack Mountains

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

- Meyer R. T., S. A. Rush, and B. Dorr. Unpublished. Non-lethal southern flying squirrel odor deterrents for application to red-cockaded woodpecker cavities.
- Meyer R. T., and S. A. Rush. Unpublished. Southern flying squirrel diet in red-cockaded woodpecker clusters in Mississippi and Alabama.
- Meyer R. T., S. Reagan, G. Wang, and S. A. Rush. Unpublished. Spatial ecology of the southern flying squirrel in red-cockaded woodpecker clusters in loblolly dominated habitat.
- Meyer R. T., A. Weir and T. R. Horton. 2015. Small-mammal consumption of hypogeous fungi in the central adirondacks of New York. *Northeastern Naturalist* **22**:3, 648-651

CERTIFICATIONS

- Red Card, Wildland Fire Fighter Type II
- Agricultural Tractor, U.S.F.W.S.
- Rocket-netting, U.S.F.W.S.
- Associate Wildlife Biologist, The Wildlife Society
- Wilderness and Remote First Aid, American Red Cross
- About Boating Safely Certification, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Firearm Safety and Hunter Certification, DEC