

Travis M. Thomas

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Nature Coast Biological Station, University of Florida

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I'm a researcher with broad interests in ecology and technology

Some stuff about me

- I have a passion for data science and technology.
- I have a strong background in field-techniques.
- I combine my passion and background to answer a variety of questions regarding population and conservation ecology.

Education

University of Florida

PHD WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

- Dissertation - Diamondback Terrapin Ecology & Threats

Gainesville, FL

2020

University of Florida

MSC WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

- Thesis - Ecology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle in the Suwannee River

Gainesville, FL

2013

University of Florida

BSC NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

- Undergraduate Thesis - Morphology of the genus Macrochelys

Gainesville, FL

2009

Work Experience

University of Florida / Nature Coast Biological Station

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Cedar Key, Florida

2020-present

University of Florida / Nature Coast Biological Station

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Cedar Key, Florida

2015-2016

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

BIOLOGICAL SCIENTIST

Gainesville, Florida

2011-2015

University of Florida / Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Gainesville, Florida

2009-2011

University of Florida / Florida Museum of Natural History

COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT

Gainesville, Florida

2007-2008

Active Research Projects

Utility of Novel GPS Technology to Track Turtles

2022

UF, Oxford

A 4-Stage Projection Matrix for the Alligator Snapping Turtle

2022

UF, USGS

Assessment of Passive Fishing and its Impacts on Wildlife

2022

UF, FWC, USFWS

The Effectiveness of Discrete BRDs on Terrapin Exclusion and Crab Capture Rates

2021

UF, FWC

Assesment of Terrapin Body Sizes Across Florida

2021 UF, FWC

Population Status Assesment of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle

2020 UF, FWC, USFWS

The Efficacy of Different Satellite Transmitters on Freshwater Turtles

2020 UF, USGS

Teaching Experience

Wildlife of Florida

2020 Teaching Assistant
University of Florida

Modeling for Endangered Species (workshop)

2019 co-Instructor
University of Florida

Wildlife of Florida

2019 co-Instructor
University of Florida

Wildlife of Florida

2016-2018 Teaching Assistant
University of Florida

Volunteer Experience

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Group

2017-PRESENT Board Member
Cedar Key, Florida, USA

Florida Museum of Natural History

2006-2009 Collections volunteer
Gainesville, Florida, USA

Taita Conservancy

2004 Volunteer
Tsavo, Kenya

Awards

Exceptional Service

2009 Florida Museum of Natural History

Community Leadership Award

2005 Santa Fe College

The President's Student Service Award

2005 George W. Bush

Publications

1. Thomas, T. M., Boone, W., Allen, M. S., Martin, C., & Johnston, S. A. (2022). Occupancy of the diamond-backed terrapin (malaclemys terrapin) on coastal islands in the suwannee river estuary, florida. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*.
2. Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., Enge, K., Barry, S. C., & Johnston, S. A. (2022). Variation in relative abundance and body size of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle in the suwannee river. *Southeastern Naturalist*.
3. Denton, M., Johnston, G. R., Thomas, T. M., Waddle, H., Walls, S. C., & Hart, K. M. (2022). Dietary niche of three omnivorous turtle species: Insights from stable isotope analysis. *Southeastern Naturalist*.
4. Thomas, T. M., Enge, K. M., Suarez, E., & Johnston, G. R. (2022). Population status of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (macrochelys suwanniensis) in the suwannee river, florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 21(1), 2–10.
5. Suarez, E., Thomas, T. M., Turner, W. M., Gandy, R. L., Enge, K. M., & Johnson, S. A. (2021). Population size and structure of the ornate diamondback terrapin (malaclemys terrapin macrospilota) on small gulf coast islands in florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 20(2), 265–272.

6. Enge, K. M., Stevenson, D. J., Thomas, T. M., Johnston, G. R., Jensen, J. B., Stegenga, B. S., Chandler, H. C., & Moler, P. E. (2021). Distribution and relative abundance of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (macrochelys suwanniensis). *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 20(2), 184–199.
7. Thomas, T. M., & Enge, K. M. (2019). The alligator snapping turtle. In *Amphibians and reptiles of florida* (pp. 239–244). University of Florida Press.
8. Johnston, G. R., Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., Lau, A., & Mitchell, J. C. (2015). Population structure and body size of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (macrochelys suwanniensis) in northern florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 14(1), 73–81.
9. Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., & Enge, K. M. (2015). New county records of reptiles from the suwannee river, florida, USA. *Herpetological Review*, 46(4), 608.
10. Thomas, T. M., Granatosky, M. C., Bourque, J. R., Krysko, K. L., Moler, P. E., Gamble, T., Suarez, E., Leone, E., Enge, K. M., & Roman, J. (2014). Taxonomic assessment of alligator snapping turtles (chelydridae: Macrochelys), with the description of two new species from the southeastern united states. *Zootaxa*, 3786(2), 141–165.
11. Diemer Berish, J. E., Kiltie, R. A., & Thomas, T. M. (2012). Long-term population dynamics of gopher tortoises (gopherus polyphemus) in a pine plantation in northern florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 11(1), 50–58.
12. Enge, K. M., Jernigan, A., Johnson, R., Berish, J. E. D., Moler, P. E., Thomas, T. M., & Kiltie, R. A. (2012). What the world needs is a better gopher tortoise trap. *Herpetological Review*, 43(4), 574–578.
13. Johnston, G., Thomas, T. M., & Lau, A. (2012). Alligator snapping turtle: Growth rates. *Herpetological Review*, 43(2), 474–475.

References

Dr. Mike Allen	NCBS-University of Florida
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Kevin Enge	Florida Fish & Wildlife
RESEARCH SCIENTIST	352-334-4209