1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Program of Study

In 1935 the University of Maine initiated one of the first graduate programs in wildlife. Today, with over 70 years of growth and development, the Department of Wildlife Ecology provides opportunities for students to study wildlife science and related disciplines including conservation biology. The faculty and graduate student body is large enough to create a stimulating and diverse environment, while small enough for each student to receive individual attention.

The M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and the M.W.C. in Wildlife Conservation require a background in biology, conservation and management of resources. Students that do not have these requirements must complete these prior to finishing their graduate degree. The M.S. and M.W.C. students are required to complete 30 credits, Ph.D. students must complete 55 credits. The Ph.D. program requires completion of written and comprehensive orals prior to admission to candidacy. The average time for an M.S. or M.W.C. student is 2.5 – 3 years, a Ph.D. student 3-5 years (beyond the M.S.). Specific course requirements are listed in the Graduate Catalog.

Research Facilities

The wide range of forest, wetland, and marine ecosystems in Maine, and the computer, laboratory and library facilities on campus offer excellent opportunities for wildlife research. Close relationships with a variety of federal, state and private conservation organizations, facilitated by the Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, provide a substantial funding base and a network for collaborative research.

Financial Aid

All M.S. and Ph.D. students accepted receive research funding. These funds include stipends (from $17,000 per year), tuition costs and research expenses. Sometimes financial aid is available for students in the M.W.C. program. Several University-wide scholarships are available on a competitive basis. The faculty nominates top-ranking applicants for these awards.

Students

There are eleven graduate faculty in Wildlife Ecology. The number of graduate students over the past several years has varied between 20 and 30. Acceptance into the University of Maine graduate program in wildlife ecology is competitive. The successful applicant has an excellent academic record, high scores on the GRE and outstanding recommendations. The minimum standards are a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and a combined GRE score of at least 1100 (quantitative and verbal). An exception may be granted for a student whose overall record is outstanding but whose GPA or GRE scores fall below the minimum requirement. Students applying to the M.S. or Ph.D. programs must have completed an undergraduate degree in wildlife ecology or a closely related discipline. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the GRE advanced biology exam. The M.W.C. program is appropriate for natural resource professionals who wish to further their education, for international students who seek exposure to an American perspective on wildlife conservation, and for students who have an outstanding academic record, but who lack a background in biological sciences.

Applying

Usually assistantships begin in September, but some may be available in January or June. All available assistantships are posted on the department's web page at www.wle.umaine.edu. Application deadlines and procedures may vary and will be indicated in the postings on the website. The professor advertising the position should be contacted directly for further information. Students are selected on the basis of their previous academic performace, their GRE scores, their recommendations and their field or laboratory experience. Applicants are encouraged to arrange a visit to the Orono campus whenever feasible, or to make an appointment to meet a faculty member at a conference. Please note that an applicant is accepted only into a funded project and the number of funded projects varies from year to year.

Correspondence

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Graduate Faculty

James R. Gilbert, Ph.D. (Idaho, 1974), Professor and Chair. Population dynamics, biometrics, marine mammals, ungulates, carnivores.

Aram J.K. Calhoun, (Maine, 1996), Associate Professor. Vernal pool ecology and conservation, wetland ecology.

Stephen M. Coghlan, Jr., Ph.D. (State University, 2004), Assistant Professor. Interactive ecology of smallmouth bass, Atlantic and landlocked salmon, and brook trout, trophic cascading effects resulting from planktivore removal in high-elevation lakes, and ecology of riverine populations of round whitefish.

Daniel J. Harrison, Ph.D. (Maine, 1986), Professor. Wildlife-habitat relationships, interactions among forest management practices and wildlife populations, predator ecology.

Malcolm L. Hunter, **Jr.**, Ph.D. (Oxford, 1978), Professor and Libra Professor. Conservation biology, forest wildlife management, landscape ecology, international conservation.

William B. Krohn, Ph.D. (Idaho, 1977), Professor. Leader, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Forest carnivore ecology, wildlife habitat modeling, historical ecology, and habitat information systems.

Cynthia S. Loftin, Ph.D. (Florida, 1998), Associate Professor. Assistant Leader, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Wetlands, landscape, and systems Ecology, GIS Applications.

Judith M. Rhymer, Ph.D. (Florida State University, 1988), Associate Professor. Population genetics and conservation biology.

Frederick A. Servello, Ph.D. (Virginia Polytech Inst. and State Univ., 1985), Professor. Foraging ecology, habitat relationships of birds and mammals.

Joseph D. Zydlewski, Ph.D. (Massachusetts, 1998), Assistant Professor. Assistant Leader, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Fish movements and migrations in the context of ecology, physiology and management.