

Anna M. Tucker

Postdoctoral Research Associate
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

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Education

Ph.D. Wildlife Sciences - Auburn University - 2019

M.S. Ecology - Virginia Commonwealth University - 2014

B.S. Biology - Loyola University Maryland - 2010

Work Experience

Postdoctoral Researcher

U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

GS-0401-12, Step 01

Jan 2020-present

40 hours/week

\$88,335/year

Project title: Dynamic management strategies for migratory birds under non-stationarity

Advised by Dr. Jim Lyons and Dr. Michael Runge

Duties:

- develop and evaluate novel approaches for management decision making for dynamic systems, with an emphasis on the management of migratory birds under climate change which may be affected at multiple scales (temporal and spatial)
- work with USFWS partners to develop decision-making frameworks to address problems related to harvest, land acquisition, and incidental take
- synthesize current literature on management of non-stationary systems

Accomplishments:

- wrote and submitted proposal to convene a Powell Center Working Group to address challenges associated with natural resource management under non-stationary
- wrote invited proposal to the NE and SE Climate Adaptation Science Centers to develop new methods for adaptive management of waterfowl harvest in the face of climate change
- attended Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center Adaptive Management Review Workshop, which addressed double- and triple-loop learning in four case studies of adaptive management in Region 3 refuges

Related Skills:

- decision analysis
- dynamic optimization (stochastic dynamic programming)
- population modeling
- statistical programming (R, BUGS/JAGS, Nimble)
- written communication via grant proposals and manuscripts

Postdoctoral Researcher

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences/ALCFWRU, Auburn University

Apr 2019-Jan 2020

40 hours/week
\$48,000/year

Project title: Population analysis and projection modeling for USFWS Species Status Assessments
Advised by Dr. Conor McGowan

Duties:

- worked with USFWS partners to develop population projection models for Species Status Assessments (SSAs), the science document that supports decision-making under the Endangered Species Act
- analyzed monitoring data to estimate demographic parameters
- compiled habitat suitability models to evaluate habitat availability across species' ranges
- developed population projection simulation models that allow biologists to estimate quasi-extinction risk and the probability of population growth or decline under multiple future scenarios

Accomplishments:

- developed population model and submitted an appendix to be included in the SSA for the Puerto Rican boa (Region 4)
- wrote an analysis plan for a black-footed ferret PVA (Region 6)
- authored one publication on the Puerto Rican boa model, with an emphasis on developing PVAs for data deficient species
- developed and taught SSA 200: Strategic Use of Data, a two-day USFWS training course to help biologists better understand population modeling tools that can be used in SSAs (delivered three times in 2018-2019)

Related Skills:

- population ecology, demographic estimation, population modeling
- statistical programming (R, BUGS/JAGS, Nimble)
- spatial analysis (qGIS, ArcMap, R)
- use of Github for version control and collaboration
- effective written and oral communication with biologists and decision makers regarding the structure, outputs, and inference from population models

Graduate Research Assistant

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences/ALCFWRU, Auburn University

Jan 2015-Apr 2019

20 hours/week

\$19,000/year

Dissertation title: Stopover ecology and population dynamics of migratory shorebirds

Advised by Dr. Conor McGowan

Duties:

- analyzed mark-resight, capture, and count data from 20 years of shorebird monitoring in Delaware Bay to estimate demographic parameters and evaluate the effects of stopover site conditions on shorebird population dynamics
- worked closely with state biologists from Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife to develop a research plan designed to address knowledge gaps, in support of shorebird conservation efforts in Delaware
- developed lesson plans and taught Wildlife Population Analysis lab (upper-level undergraduate course, 30 students) and Ornithology lab (upper-level undergraduate course, 50 students)

- assisted with field surveys for migratory shorebirds, including cannon net captures, banding, counting mixed flocks, and resighting individually-identifiable leg flags

Accomplishments:

- authored four publications on shorebird stopover ecology and analysis of stopover monitoring data
- awarded a Distinguished Dissertation Award from Auburn University (one of 10 awarded)
- presented dissertation research at three international and three national academic conferences, awarded two student presentation awards (AOS 2018 and Euring 2017)
- founded and led the Wildlife Graduate Student and Postdoc Quant Club, a weekly meeting of 6-10 members to discuss quantitative methods and tools, including sharing current work and formal tutorials from group members
- mentored M.S. students and undergraduates as needed to assist with project development and quantitative methods

Related Skills:

- full annual cycle population analysis, estimation of demographic parameters
- statistical programming and hierarchical modeling (R, BUGS/JAGS, Nimble)
- designing simulation studies to evaluate new modeling methods
- effective written and oral communication

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Aug 2012-May 2014

20 hours/week

\$13,000/year

Thesis title: Occurrence and consequences of conspecific brood parasitism in a cavity-nesting warbler

Advised by Dr. Lesley Bulluck

Duties:

- analyzed ~1500 blood samples to assign parentage of nestlings and determine effects of conspecific brood parasitism on host fitness
- mentored undergraduate researchers (4) in developing independent research projects, conducting field work, analyzing data, and writing manuscripts
- developed lesson plans and taught Ornithology lab (upper-level undergraduate course, 20 students)
- conducted fieldwork to monitor breeding prothonotary warblers, including nest surveys, mist netting, banding, and behavioral observations

Accomplishments:

- authored two publications on the reproductive ecology of conspecific brood parasitism in prothonotary warblers
- presented thesis research at one national and one regional academic conference
- awarded Outstanding Graduate Student in Ecology from the Department of Biology

Related Skills:

- laboratory techniques including DNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis
- analysis of microsatellite data
- estimation of demographic parameters

- effective written and oral communication

Publications

Tucker, A.M., C.P. McGowan, E. Mulero, N.F. Angeli, J.P. Zegarra. *In review - Animal Conservation*. Developing a demographic projection model to support conservation decision making for an endangered snake with limited monitoring data.

Tucker, A.M., C.P. McGowan, J.E. Lyons, A.L. DeRose-Wilson, N.A. Clark. *In review - Ecological Applications*. Species-specific demographic and behavioral responses to environmental conditions during migratory stopover.

Tucker, A.M., C.P. McGowan, M. Catalano, A.L. DeRose-Wilson, R.A. Robinson, and J. Zimmerman. 2019. Foraging ecology mediates response to ecological mismatch during migratory stopover. *Ecosphere*, 10.

Tucker, A.M., C.P. McGowan, R.A. Robinson, J.A. Clark, J.E. Lyons, A.L. DeRose-Wilson, R. du Feu, G.E. Austin, P.W. Atkinson, and N.A. Clark. 2019. Effects of individual misidentification on estimates of survival in long-term mark-resight studies. *The Condor: Ornithological Applications*, 121: 1-13.

Weaver, R.J., E.A. Santos, **A.M. Tucker**, A.E. Wilson, and G.E. Hill. 2018. Carotenoid metabolism strengthens the link between feather coloration and individual quality. *Nature Communications*: 9.

Tucker, A.M. and L.P. Bulluck. 2017. No evidence for a negative effect of conspecific brood parasitism on annual survival of female Prothonotary Warblers. *Ibis*, 160: 447-452.

Tucker, A.M., R.J. Dyer, S.K. Huber, and L.P. Bulluck. 2016. Opportunistic conspecific brood parasitism in a box-nesting population of Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*). *The Auk*: 133, 2, 298-307.

Awards and Honors

2019 Distinguished Dissertation Award, *Auburn University Graduate School*

2019 Outstanding Doctoral Student, *Auburn University Graduate Student Council*

2019 Drummond PhD Student Award, *AU School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences*

2018 Biometrics Working Group Travel Award, *The Wildlife Society*

2018 AOS Council Student Presentation Award, *American Ornithological Society*

2017 Best Student Poster, *Euring Analytical Meeting and Workshop*

2017 Graduate Student Award, *Ducks Unlimited*

2014 Outstanding Graduate Student in Ecology, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Research Grants and Fellowships

2017 Francis M. Peacock Scholarship for Native Bird Habitat, Garden Club of America \$4000

2015 Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Fellowship, Auburn University Graduate School \$500

2015 Research Grant, Eastern Bird Banding Association Memorial Fund \$1000

2013 Student Research Award, VCU Rice Center \$1000

2013 J.J. Murray Research Award, Virginia Society of Ornithology \$1000

2008 Hauber Summer Research Fellowship, Loyola University \$3000

Conference Presentations

Invited

2019 Encounter type and frequency determine the effects of individual misidentification on survival estimation. *Oral presentation, American Fisheries Society & The Wildlife Society Joint Conference, Reno NV*

Contributed

2019 Estimating population growth rate and latent recruitment at a migratory stopover site using integrated population models. *Oral presentation, American Fisheries Society & The Wildlife Society Joint Conference, Reno NV*

2019 Annual variation in use of a spring stopover site by three migratory shorebirds. *Oral presentation, American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting, Anchorage AK*

2018 Bias in survival estimates due to individual misidentification in long-term mark-resight studies. *Oral presentation, The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Cleveland OH*

2018 Effects of resource mismatch on stopover mass gain dynamics for two Arctic-breeding shorebirds. *Oral presentation, American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting, Tucson AZ Winner–Student Presentation Award*

2017 Comparing annual variation in stopover mass gain between two long-distance migrants. *Oral presentation, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group, Paracas, Peru (presented by R.A. Robinson)*

2017. Combining multistate models and network theory to evaluate movement patterns during migratory stopover. *Poster presentation, Euring Analytical Meeting, Barcelona, Spain Winner–Best Student Poster Award*

2016 Assessing the influence of migratory connectivity and spring stopover site disturbance on population dynamics using a full annual cycle simulation model. *Oral presentation, North American Ornithological Conference VI, Washington DC*

2014 Conspecific brood parasitism as an alternative breeding strategy in box-nesting Prothonotary Warblers. *Oral presentation, American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting, Estes Park CO*

2014 The occurrence and consequences of conspecific brood parasitism in the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). *Oral presentation, Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting, Norfolk VA*

Professional Development

Observer, Adaptive Management Review Workshop, Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center 2020

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics with Nimble, Reno NV 2019

Apprentice, National Conservation Training Center Structured Decision Making Workshop 2018

Integrated Population Modeling Workshop, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center 2017

Data Integration Workshop, Euring Analytical Meeting, Barcelona 2017

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, Mansfield GA 2017

Teaching

Lesson Development

Quantitative Techniques for Species Status Assessments, USFWS Training Course (2017-2018)
Wildlife Population Science Lab, Auburn University (Spring 2018)
Ornithology Program, National Audubon Society Hog Island Family Camp (2017-present)
Ornithology Lab, Virginia Commonwealth University (Summer 2013)

Guest Lectures

Avian Conservation in North America, Ornithology, Auburn University (Apr 2018)
Migratory Shorebirds in Delaware Bay, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Auburn AL (Apr 2017)
Avian Life History, Ornithology, Virginia Commonwealth University (Mar 2014)

Teaching Assistantships

Ornithology Lab, Auburn University (Spring 2016)
Anatomy and Physiology II Lab, Auburn University (Spring 2015-Fall 2016)
Ornithology Lab, Virginia Commonwealth University (Spring 2014)
Tropical Avian Ecology in Panama, Virginia Commonwealth University (Spring 2014)
Intro. to Biological Sciences Lab, Virginia Commonwealth University (Fall 2012-Fall 2013)

Service and Outreach

Founder and Coordinator, Wildlife Graduate Student & Postdoc Quant Club (2017-2018)
Graduate Student Representative, IT Specialist Hiring Committee (Jan 2018)
Ornithology Instructor, National Audubon Society, Hog Island Family Camp (2017-present)
Instructor, Graduate Women in Science and Girl Scout Pi Day (Mar 2017)
Ornithology Instructor, Alabama Extension Master Naturalist Program (Dec 2016)
Bird Survey Leader, Alabama Extension Program BioBlitz (2016-2017)
Poster Session Judge, Auburn University This is Research Symposium (Mar 2016)
Shorebird Monitoring Volunteer, Delaware Shorebird Project (2015-2018)
Vice President, VCU Graduate Organization of Biology Students (2013-2014)
Interpretive Aide, National Aquarium in Baltimore (2010-2011)
Environmental Education Volunteer, Patterson Park Audubon Society (2009-2010)