

MARY MACK GRAY

Avian ecologist with over 10 years' experience with endemic & vulnerable species. My expertise includes reintroduction ecology, cooperative breeding, behavior, habitat use, & fire-dependent species. Research interests include animal personality and the causes & consequences of biodiversity loss.

EDUCATION

May
2019
|
Aug
2017

- **MSc Wildlife Ecology & Conservation**

University of Florida GPA 4.0

📍 Gainesville, FL

• Advisor: Kathryn Sieving

Dec
2012
|
Aug
2008

- **BS Biological Sciences: Ecology, Evol., Conservation**

North Carolina State University GPA 3.6

📍 Raleigh, NC

SELECTED POSITIONS

present
|
May
2019

- **Avian Research Specialist - Pineland Endemics**

Tall Timbers Research Station

📍 Tallahassee, FL

- Lead field biologist; project mgmt (3-4/yr); develop, implement new research initiatives; coordinate, train assistants; protected species banding/handling
- Collaborate with stakeholders to achieve shared conservation goals; deliver actionable results to landowners/managers; communicate findings to diverse audiences (gov't agencies, the public, non-profits, Board of trustees)
- Projects (as PI 2019-21): Bachman's sparrow occupancy on longleaf-restored public lands (>100k acres surveyed); Long-term Brown-headed nuthatch research; Motus station; (Asst.) Black Rail occupancy, habitat surveys
- Spearheaded establishment of a Motus station and implemented radio-tagging program for declining over-wintering species; doubled tagging capability by coordinating with private donor to supplement project funds
- Consulted on nuthatch reintroduction to Missouri; personally captured 20% of translocated birds; reintroduced nuthatches to S. FL
- Manuscript, technical, grant writing; spatial, data analysis; database administration; science communication; conference presentations; outreach

May
2017
|
Aug
2016

- **Endangered Species Biological Technician (GS-04)**

US Fish & Wildlife Service

📍 St Mark's, FL

- Frosted flatwood salamanders: developed pilot conservation program, methods; captive reared and released >400 salamanders; built remote detection infrastructure; implanted PIT tags; habitat mgmt
- Red-Cockaded Woodpecker translocations; banding; cavity, habitat maintenance



CONTACT

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📞 (336) 337-6463

🔗 [ResearchGate](#)

in [LinkedIn](#)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

R (Proficient)

ArcGIS (Proficient)

Microsoft Office, Access; G Suite

Some SQL, RMarkdown, CSS, HTML

RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Project design, implementation

Data analysis, viz, synthesis; multivariate stats

Extensive experience in many Florida ecosystems

Tech-savvy self-starter; innovative problem-solver; personable

Community, landowner/manager, stakeholder engagement

Adept communicator, public speaker; award-winning presenter

Federal, Non-profit experience

- Aug 2016
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Feb 2015
Research Technician - Brown-headed Nuthatches
 Tall Timbers Research Station 📍 Tallahassee, FL
 - BHNUs, BACS, RCWOs: banding, nestling translocation; genetic sampling (blood); behavioral research
 - Eastern Grasshopper Sparrows: capture, post-release telemetry of population used as surrogates to refine captive breeding techniques for critically-endangered FL Grasshopper Sparrows
- Jan 2015
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Sept 2014
Field Technician - Fairy-wrens
 Cornell University 📍 Brisbane, QLD, AUS
 - Red-backed and Variegated Fairy-wrens research: sexual signalling, feather UV, cooperative behavior, social network analysis
 - Nest searching/monitoring; banding; data collection, entry
- July 2014
|
Jan 2014
Avian Ecology Intern - Florida Scrub-jays
 Archbold Biological Station 📍 Venus, FL
 - Florida Scrub-Jay nest, demographic monitoring; independent research
 - Meticulous data collection for one of the longest-running bird studies

📖 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2022
The nuthatch and the hare: Slow explorers dominate in a re-established population of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) two decades later
 Accepted 📍 Avian Conservation & Ecology
- 2022
Cooperative breeding behavior emerges early in restored populations of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*)
 Pre-print. DOI: 10.1676/19-00146 📍 Wilson Journal of Ornithology
 - Cox, J.A., MM Gray, H.E. Levy, G.L. Slater
- Jun 2016
Tool usage by juvenile (*Sitta pusilla*) Brown-headed Nuthatch
<https://doi.org/10.1656/058.015.0209> 📍 Southeastern Naturalist
 - Gray, MM, E. Schunke, J.A. Cox

👥 ORGANIZATIONS & AWARDS

- present
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2019
Florida Ornithological Society
 Vice President
 - Cruickshank Research Award 2018 (\$2,500)
- present
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2019
American Ornithological Society
 Member
 - Mark E. Hauber Award - Best Oral Presentation on Behavior

📍 Places I've Worked (2014-)



Made with the R package [pagedown](#).

Source code by nstrayer
available [on github](#).

Last updated on 2022-01-08.