

Lyndsie S. Wszola

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Education

PhD, Ecology, Resilience NSF NRT trainee, expected graduation 2022

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Supervisor: Dr. John Paul DeLong

MSc, Natural Resource Sciences, Applied Ecology specialization, 2017

Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Thesis title: Mapping the ecology of information: hierarchical habitat selection by Nebraska pheasant hunters

Supervisor: Dr. Joseph J. Fontaine

Bachelor of Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, 2014

The Pennsylvania State University

Honors thesis: The impact of breeding season weather on mourning dove nest success

Supervisor: Dr. David A.W. Miller

Publications

- **Wszola, L.S.**, E. F. Stuber, V. L. Simonsen, L. N. Messinger, C.R. Gillespie, J.J. Lusk, C. Decker, C.J. Jorgensen, A.A. Bishop, and J. J. Fontaine. Translating statistical species-habitat models to interactive decision support tools. 2017. PLOS One.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, E. F. Stuber, V. L. Simonsen, L. N. Messinger, C.R. Gillespie, C.J. Jorgensen, and J. J. Fontaine. The Pheasant Habitat Simulator.
<https://pheasant.shinyapps.io/pheasanthabitatsimulator/>
- Foley, G.J. and **L. S. Wszola**. 2017. Observation of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) and Bats (*Chiroptera*) Feeding Concurrently. The Northeastern Naturalist 24:26-28.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, V.L. Simonsen, L.H. Corral, C.J. Chizinski, and J.J. Fontaine. Simulation methods for increasing home range comparability (in review).
- **Wszola, L.S.**, A.E. Madsen, E.F. Stuber, C.J. Chizinski, J.J. Lusk, J. Scott Taylor, K.L. Pope and J.J. Fontaine. A multiscale assessment of pheasant hunter participation (in review).
- **Wszola, L.S.**, L.F. Gruber, E.F. Stuber, and J.J. Fontaine. Assessing economic and welfare returns from public access hunting programs (in review).

Presentations

- **Wszola, L.S.**, and J.P. DeLong. Scaling phenotypic variation to population persistence under invasion. Poster presented at the Gordon Unifying Ecology across Scales Conference, July 23, 2018.

- Gruber, L.F., **Wszola, L.S.**, and E.F. Stuber. Estimation of open populations from multiple structurally different data sets: a statistical analysis of the Nebraska hunter survey. Invited talk at Duke University, December 8, 2017.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, L.M. Messinger, and J.J. Fontaine. The economic impact of public access hunting programs on rural economies. Talk presented at the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, 22 September 2017, Albuquerque, NM.
- **Wszola, L.S.** and J.J. Fontaine. How we hunt: modeling the future of pheasant behavior. Talk presented at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, 6 February 2017, Lincoln, NE.
- **Wszola, L.S.** and J.J. Fontaine. Should I stay or should I go: modeling prey habitat decisions. Poster presented at the North American Ornithological Conference, 16 August 2016, Washington, DC.
- **Wszola, L.S.** and J.J. Fontaine. Does habitat structure shape predator foraging decisions? Poster presented at the Gordon Research Conferences Predator-Prey Interactions Meeting, 28 January 2016, Ventura, CA.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, and J.J. Fontaine. The influence of prey behavior and habitat structure on hunter movement. Poster presented at The Wildlife Society Central Mountains and Plains Section Meeting, 11 August 2015; Manhattan, KS.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, D.A.W. Miller, and M.B. Brittingham. The effects of breeding season weather on mourning dove nest success. Poster presented at the Pennsylvania State University Research Exhibition, 19 March 2014, State College, PA.
- **Wszola, L.S.**, and P. Porneluzi. The effect of forest management on bird populations on adjacent no-harvest control sites. Poster presentation at the University of Missouri Undergraduate Research Forum, 24 July, 2012, Columbia, MO.

Professional Appointments

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Graduate Research Assistant, NRT Trainee

August 2018 – present

- Conduct interdisciplinary research on eco-evolutionary dynamics and resilience
- Collaborate with ecologists, engineers, agronomists, and policy scholars to implement research
- Develop open source R-based software to make quantitative ecological models accessible to conservation practitioners and the scientific community

Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Human Dimensions of Wildlife Research Associate

August 2017 – August 2018

- Author manuscripts for publication and build programmatic science delivery tools
- Build and maintain relational SQL databases
- Conduct spatial and behavioral analyses on human and animal location data
- Collaborate with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide informational support to conservation practitioners

Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Graduate Research Assistant

May 2014 – August 2017

- Collaborated with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to develop and implement research assessing the effects of predator behavior on avian spatial decisions
- Supervised a crew of 3-5 technicians to conduct: pheasant capture and GPS/radio telemetry, hunter interviews and GPS monitoring, vegetation surveys, camera trapping, wild turkey genetic sampling, and land use mapping.
- Modeled hunter and pheasant habitat decisions using spatial modeling techniques in R, NetLogo, ArcMap, and QGIS.

Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest
White Mountain National Forest, North Woodstock, NH
Point Count Technician

May – July 2013

- Conducted breeding bird point counts to assess Neotropical migrant spatial distribution and reproductive phenology
- Collected and processed *Lepidoptera* samples to assess invertebrate phenology
- Constructed forest canopy height profile to assess forest growth and regeneration

Penn State Arboretum Bird Banding Project
The Pennsylvania State University
Bird Banding Volunteer

Fall 2012 – Fall 2013

- Captured and banded migrating and resident birds using mist nets
- Measured and recorded demographic information to assess migration phenology and migrant physiology
- Conducted public education programs on avian ecology and research

Missouri Ozark Forest Ecosystem Project
Peck Ranch Conservation Area, Winona, MO
Avian Research Technician

May – August 2012

- Conducted point counts to assess breeding bird abundance, spatial distribution, and competitive interactions
- Searched for and monitored nests to study migrant reproductive ecology
- Captured and banded Neotropical migrants using mist nets to assess breeding bird demography and reproductive phenology

Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
The Pennsylvania State University
Undergraduate Research Technician

October 2011 – May 2014

- Conducted hunter interviews to assess movement and demography of harvested deer
- Maintained a state-wide deer harvest database

- Built and maintained a historical timber harvest database to assess forest regeneration
- Assisted the Pennsylvania Game Commission with deer capture and transmitter retrieval

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Fishery Center, Lamar, PA
Fisheries Research Intern

May – August 2011

- Captured and assessed demography of wild brook trout
- Maintained captive populations of salmonids, sturgeon, and paddlefish for research, stocking, and education
- Conducted aquatic ecology education and outreach programs for the public

Shea Invasion Ecology Lab
The Pennsylvania State University
Invasive plant research volunteer

January – May 2011

- Dissected seed heads of invasive plants to investigate the relationship between climate change and biological invasions
- Conducted terminal velocity drops of invasive seeds to assess wind dispersal potential

Stauffer Fish Systematics Lab
The Pennsylvania State University
Research volunteer

September – December 2010

- Extracted benthic macroinvertebrates from stream samples
- Sorted and identified macroinvertebrates to assess environmental impact of proposed construction projects in riparian areas

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Graduate Learning Assistant, Natural Resource Sciences 103

Spring 2016

- Facilitated undergraduate discussion of socio-scientific issues
- Introduced the concepts of the scientific method, peer review, and social engagement with science-based policy
- Supervised undergraduate research projects and writing workshops

Camp Onas
Ottsville, PA
Environmental Educator

2007 – 2014

- Designed and conducted environmental education programs for diverse audiences
- Led backpacking and canoeing trips and facilitated wilderness team-building exercises
- Built and maintained an educational vegetable and pollinator garden

Penn State Office of Residence Life
The Pennsylvania State University
Resident Assistant

August 2012 – May 2014

- Mentored a floor of 36 first-year undergraduates
- Facilitated undergraduate academic development
- Planned and conducted sustainability and ecology educational programs

Penn State Learning
The Pennsylvania State University
Writing Tutor

August 2011 – December 2013

- Conducted collaborative revision sessions with writers
- Prepared manuscripts for publication
- Specialized in revising scientific and technical writing

News and Outreach

- **Wszola, L.S.**, Foggia, J., and J.J. Fontaine. Habitat for Hunters. Nebraska Izaak Walton League state meeting, 28 January 2018.
- Pheasant project has potential to further land management research. 16 January, 2018. <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/pheasant-project-has-potential-to-further-land-management-research/>.

Scholarships and Awards

- National Science Foundation NRT traineeship (2018)
- SNR Meritorious Graduate Student Award (2017)
- Finalist, School of Natural Resources elevator speech contest (2015)
- Undergraduate Research Grant (2014)
- Schreyer Honors Academic Excellence Scholarship (2010-2014)
- Hartman Trustee Agriculture Scholarship (2010-2011, 2012-2013)
- John R. Miller Jr. Renaissance Scholarship (2010-2014)
- Wilbur W. Ward Memorial Scholarship (2010-2011)
- Spearey Forest Resources Scholarship (2010-2011)
- Gerald and Leoda Gummo Excellence Fund in Agriculture (2010-2011)
- Reigner Irvin Endowment (2010-2011)
- Academic Competitiveness Grant (2010-2011)
- Hintz Trustee Scholarship in Agricultural Science (2011-2012)
- Dreibelbis Endowment for Excellence in Agriculture (2011-2012)
- Robert Billin Memorial Scholarship (2013-2014)
- Eva B. and G. Weidman Groff Memorial Scholarship (2013-2014)

Training and Skills

- Radar Aeroecology Training School, Oklahoma State University, 2017
- Enhancing Linkages Between Mathematics and Ecology, Kellogg Biological Station at Michigan State University, 2015
- Statistics and programming: R, SQL, HTML, Program Mark
- GIS/ Remote Sensing: ESRI/ArcGIS, QGIS, point process modeling in R
- Species Distribution Models Using R workshop, 2015
- NSC Defensive Driving II, 2011, 2014, 2017
- American Red Cross CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults, 2016
- Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, Conservation Education and Hunting Awareness Workshop, 2013