Lauren Ash

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EDUCATION

University of Vermont, PhD student

August 2015 – present

- Advised by Dr. Nicholas Gotelli
- Research interests: community ecology, species distribution modeling, climate change

University College London, Master of Research

September 2013 – September 2014

- Master of Research in Biodiversity, Evolution & Conservation
- First project – Created an anthrax risk map of Africa using ecological predictors
- Second project – Created a model to differentiate seaweed habitats from aerial imaging

University of Florida, Bachelor of Science

August 2007 – August 2012

- Cum Laude
- Major – Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with an emphasis on Wildlife Ecology
- Minor – French and Francophone Studies
- GPA 3.42

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Developing a tool for the monitoring of seaweed habitat change

May-August 2014

- The second project at UCL. Worked with Prof. Juliet Brodie from the Natural History Museum and Dr. Chris Yesson from the Institute of Zoology and Natural History Museum
- Walked transects along the Thanet coast in the UK, set down quadrats every 20 meters, and recorded the GPS coordinates and species located within the quadrats
- Created models using high-resolution imagery and field survey data with QGIS and R to determine whether seaweed habitats can be accurately differentiated through remote sensing technology

An anthrax risk map of Africa: incorporating ecological theory into disease modeling

January-April 2014

- The first project at UCL. Worked with Dr. David Redding, a postdoctoral research associate in Prof. Kate Jones' lab in the Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research at UCL
- Created MAXENT, Boosted Regression Tree, and Generalized Linear Models using predictors that incorporated ecological factors, e.g. wildlife distribution, pH and calcium content of soil, etc., as well the standard 'bioclim' variables, e.g. precipitation, temperature, etc.

UF in Swaziland

May-June 2012

- Operated an aardvark burrow camera to research the use of burrows by other animals; analyzed the data obtained
- Aided in bird point counts
- Set up and checked Sherman traps for small mammals
- Set up camera traps for small and medium sized mammals

Volunteer with Goethe State Forest (Red Cockaded Woodpeckers – endangered)

Various times from 2011-2012

- Aided in the task of banding fledgling red bellied woodpeckers using a band stretch
- Identified roosting clusters to determine the number of breeding pairs and helpers
- Assisted in installation of artificial nest boxes
- Determined the density of Nightjars by counting the number of bird calls at various locations in Goethe

UF in Belize

March 2011

- Studied the differences between natural pine communities and pine plantations
- Learned about the Belizean people's carbon sequestration project in pine plantations
- Visited three different reefs to study marine and coastal habitat
- Participated in a night drive to inspect jaguar foothold traps

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for BCOR102: Ecology and Evolution
September 2015 – December 2015

Active member of the UF Chapter of the Wildlife Society
August 2010 – May 2012

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for WIS3401: Wildlife Ecology and Management
August – December 2011

SKILLS AQUIRED THROUGH COURSES AND FIELDWORK

- R
- Avian point counts
- Setting up and checking mist nets
- Installing artificial nests
- Setting and checking Sherman traps
- Creating and monitoring scent stations
- Installing and monitoring camera traps
- Conducting spotlight surveys
- Catching and marking American alligators off of an airboat
- Setting up pitfall traps and drift fences
- Marking herps by toe clipping
- Vegetation sampling with transects and quadrats, as well as calculating DBH, tree height, and tree age
- Radio telemetry
- Using a GPS and map
- Operating an ATV
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Experience with Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS and QGIS)