

ALEXANDER D. WRIGHT

adwright@msu.edu

OBJECTIVE: To collaborate on large-scale conservation and education initiatives that aim to solve local and regional ecological problems to maintain basic ecosystem health for the organisms and human communities that rely on them, both nationally and internationally. More specifically, I am interested in integrating empirical data with stakeholder values to better inform conservation management through decision support frameworks.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Integrative Biology & EEBB, Michigan State University June 2016 - Present
Department of Integrative Biology, College of Natural Science
With Drs. Elise F. Zipkin and Evan H. Campbell Grant
- M.S. Forest Resources, University of Georgia May 2016
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources
With Drs. Jeffrey Hepinstall-Cymerman, Lora L. Smith, and Clinton T. Moore
- B.S. Ecology, University of Georgia May 2012
Odum School of Ecology
With Dr. Gary Barrett

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- FANR 8400 – Advanced Spatial Analysis Nov 2015
Guest Lecturer

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE (SINCE 2008)

- Graduate Research Assistant** June 2016 – Present
Department of Integrative Biology, Michigan State University
& Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, United States Geological Survey
- Currently, I am working with the USGS to develop network-scale management strategies for stakeholders within the National Park Service to maintain the viability of the amphibian community at the regional-level through the use of structured decision-making and hierarchical modeling.
 - With Drs. Elise F. Zipkin (Michigan State University), Evan H. Campbell Grant (United States Geological Survey), James D. Nichols (United States Geological Survey), and J. Patrick Campbell (National Park Service).
- Graduate Research Assistant** Jan 2014 – May 2016
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia
& the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
- Conducted field research investigating population dynamics and movement patterns of an at-risk species as part of a collaborative effort developing an adaptive landscape planning and decision framework for the Georgia DNR for the statewide conservation of gopher tortoises.
 - With Drs. Jeffrey Hepinstall-Cymerman (University of Georgia), Lora L. Smith (Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center), and Clinton T. Moore (USGS Georgia Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit)

Resident Naturalist

Nov 2012 – Dec 2013

University of Georgia Costa Rica Campus

- Led nature-based activities and academic programs for student groups and eco-tourists of all ages and educational backgrounds in English and Spanish; assisted in scientific research; and created an online virtual classroom platform for grades 9-12 following the National Science Education Standards.

Environmental Educator

Aug 2012 – Nov 2012

Audubon Naturalist Society

- Led and worked on environmental outreach programs and conservation management programs.

Research Technician

Jan 2009 – Sep 2011

HorseShoe Bend Ecology Experimental Research Site, Odum School of Ecology (UGA)

- Investigated the population dynamics of small mammals of a southeastern forest. Additionally, I conducted an independent research study supported by the Eugene P. Odum Endowed Chair Fund.
- With Dr. Gary W. Barrett, Odum Chair of Ecology, University of Georgia, *retired*

Water Policy Intern

Summer 2011

River Basin Center (UGA)

- Web-based research focusing on water regulations and ordinances in major cities throughout the Southeastern US and their effects on water quality/availability.

NSF- REU Research Intern

Summer 2010

Zoology Department, Miami University

- In a National Science Foundation-funded position (NSF-REU, *The Ecology of Human-Dominated Landscapes*, DBI-0754491), I studied the density and distribution of ground beetles at forest-crop edges in southwestern Ohio.
- With Dr. Thomas O. Crist, Chair, Department of Biology, Miami University

PUBLICATIONS

Wright, A.D. and Barrett, G.W. 2011. Golden mouse (*Ochrotomys nuttalli*) and white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) dietary resource partitioning under experimental field conditions. *Georgia Journal of Science* 69: 114-122.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L.L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2016. Long-term population ecology and movement patterns of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in southwestern Georgia. Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, held 16 May 2016 in Newton, GA. Oral.

Wright, A.D. 2016. Odum & Beyond. Parents and Families Day, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, held 20 February 2016 in Athens, GA. Oral.

Contributed (selected)

Wright, A.D., Grant, E.H.C., Zipkin, E.F., Nichols, J.D., Campbell, J.P., Sanders, G.M. 2017. Amphibian monitoring and management in the National Capital Region – Understanding changes in the amphibian community through the use of multi-species, multi-region occupancy models. Natural Resources Advisory Team Quarterly Meeting of the National Capitol Region Network, National Park Service, held 20 July 2017 at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, WV. Oral.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2016. Long-term population ecology and movement patterns of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*): A spatial capture-recapture approach. Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Society, held 16-20 October 2016 in Raleigh, NC. Oral.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2016. Long-term population ecology and large-scale movement patterns of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in southwestern Georgia. Annual Meeting of the U.S. Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, held 3-7 April 2016 in Asheville, NC. Oral.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2015. Long-term population ecology and large-scale movement patterns of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in southwestern Georgia. Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, held 1-4 November 2015 in Asheville, NC. Oral.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2015. Long-term population ecology and large-scale movement patterns of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in southwestern Georgia. Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting held 16-18 October 2015 in Covington, LA. Oral.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2015. Data are scarce but action is necessary: Using agent-based models for conservation. Annual Student Conference on Conservation Science (New York), held 7-9 October 2015 in New York, NY. Poster.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2015. Estimating dispersal rates and landscape resistance to understand functional connectivity for a long-lived endangered species. World Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, held 5-10 July 2015 in Portland, OR. Poster.

Wright, A.D., J. Hepinstall-Cymerman, L. Smith, and C.T. Moore. 2015. Data is scarce but action is necessary: Using spatially-explicit, individual-based models to better understand the ecology of threatened/endangered species. Annual Sustainability Science Symposium of the Center for Integrative Conservation Research at the University of Georgia, held 23 January in Athens, GA. Poster

Wright, A.D. and Barrett, G.W. 2011. Golden mouse (*Ochrotomys nuttalli*) and white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) dietary resource partitioning under experimental field conditions. Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science, held 25-26 March 2011 in Gainesville, GA. Oral.

Wright, A.D. and Crist, T.O. 2010. Density and distribution patterns of ground beetles at forest-crop edges in southwestern Ohio. Annual NSF-REU Symposium on the Ecology of Human-Dominated Landscapes, Miami University, held 30 July 2010 in Oxford, OH.

SERVICE/WORKSHOPS

Graduate Representative Fall 2017 - Present
Graduate Committee, College of Natural Science, Michigan State University

Graduate Representative Fall 2017 - Present
Student Advisory Council, College of Natural Science, Michigan State University

Graduate Representative Spring 2017 - Present

Seminar Committee (EEBB Program), Michigan State University

Graduate Student Leadership Academy

Spring 2017

Graduate Student Life & Wellness, Michigan State University

Graduate Representative

Aug 2016 – May 2017

Faculty Meeting, Department of Integrative Biology, Michigan State University

Symposium Committee

Aug 2015 – May 2016

Warnell Graduate Student Association (UGA)

Undergraduate Representative

Aug 2009 – May 2011

Facilities Committee, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia

Animal Caretaker

Aug 2009 – May 2011

Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Leadership Development Fellowship

2017 – 2018

Grad Student Life & Wellness, The Graduate School, Michigan State University

Student Travel Award

Oct 2016

Biometrics Working Group, The Wildlife Society

Quantitative Biology Fellowship

2016 – 2017

College of Natural Science, Michigan State University

Student Travel Award

Apr 2016

U.S. Chapter, International Association of Landscape Ecology

1st Place for Best Master's Oral Presentation

Jan 2015

Warnell Graduate Student Association (UGA)

3rd Place for Best Student Oral Presentation

Oct 2015

Gopher Tortoise Council

1st Place for Best Quantitative Poster Presentation at SCCS-NY

Oct 2015

Applied Biomathematics Inc.

Runner-up for Best Student Poster

Jan 2015

Center for Integrative Conservation Research (UGA)

J. Larry Landers Student Research Award

Oct 2014

Gopher Tortoise Council

UGA Foundation Incentive Award

May 2011

Office of International Education (UGA)

Most Outstanding Paper Award (Biological Sciences Section)

April 2011

Georgia Academy of Science

Hospitality Employee Recognition of Excellent Service

April 2011

Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau

National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates

Summer 2010

Department of Zoology, Miami University, NSF-REU program

Richardson-Golley Undergraduate Citizenship Award

April 2010

Odum School of Ecology (UGA)

Hope Scholarship

2008 – 2012

State of Georgia

MENTORSHIP

Jordan Francis, Former undergraduate mentee <i>Currently a student at UGA</i>	Aug 2015 – May 2016
Sara Porter, Former undergraduate mentee <i>Currently works at the Atlanta Zoo</i>	Aug 2014 – May 2015
Nick Scobel, Former field technician <i>Currently works with UF</i>	May 2015 – Oct 2015
Matt Atkinson, Former field technician <i>Currently a PhD student at UCF</i>	May 2014 – Aug 2014

SKILLS

Additional Language: Spanish

Certifications: First Aid/CPR

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ecological Society of America, Gopher Tortoise Council, International Association of Landscape Ecology, The Wildlife Society