Mason Fidino

Quantitative Ecologist

3554 West Shakespeare Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
360-339-3881
312-742-1670
mfidino@lpzoo.org
www.linkedin.com/in/mfidino
www.github.com/mfidino

Education

2013 – 2017 **Ph.D.**, *Ecology and Evolution*, University of Illinois at Chicago.
Advisors: Joel Brown, Seth Magle, Chris Whelan

2005 – 2009 **B.S.**, *Environmental Science*, Western Washington University.
Advisor: David Wallin

Research Experience

2017 – Present **Quantitative Ecologist**, *Urban Wildlife Institute*, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL.
In this role I closely collaborate with conservation and science staff at the Lincoln Park Zoo to better manage and analyze data from a wide variety of sources, from touchscreen cognition tests for primates to nation-wide camera trapping projects. My own research in this position primarily focuses on developing new tools and techniques that better incorporate a species natural history into a statistical model and help address basic and applied questions related to how species respond to habitat fragmentation.

2015 – 2017 **Ecological Analyst**, *Urban Wildlife Institute*, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL.
In this role I work to develop techniques to better manage and analyze ecological data and assist other science centers across the Lincoln Park Zoo with statistical analyses, data management, and computer programming. In this role I also developed statistics and computer programming workshops for staff. Finally, I helped initiate a large-scale citizen science project, Chicago Wildlife Watch (www.chicagowildlifewatch.org) and have written extensive software to verify and upload data to the project.

2014 – Present **Analytics Advisor**, *Urban Wildlife Information Network*.
The Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN) is the world's first systematic multi-city urban wildlife monitoring network. To facilitate the collection and analysis of these data I have developed SQL databases to store large amounts of camera trapping data and an R package for UWIN partners to easily query and analyze their data. Furthermore, I work with partners in over 17 cities to answer any database or analysis question they may have.

2012 – 2015 **Coordinator of Wildlife Management**, *Urban Wildlife Institute*, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL.
Led research of wildlife on zoo grounds, which included daily avian point counts, tracking relocated turtles in a newly restored pond habitat, on grounds rabbit management, arthropod surveys, and monitoring a nesting colony of state-endangered Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). To do all of this work, I managed and trained teams of interns each year, mentored them on urban ecology, and helped them present their work to their peers at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Additionally, I collaborated extensively with the Lincoln Park Zoo's education department on numerous projects to educate zoo visitors on wildlife conservation efforts throughout Chicago.

2011 – 2012 **Research Intern**, *Urban Wildlife Institute*, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL.
Aided with field work and data entry for the Urban Wildlife Institute's biodiversity monitoring survey, helped with research on zoo grounds, and created year-end permit reports.

2009 – 2010 **Environmental Technician**, *Environmental Assessment Services*, Richland, WA.
Assisted with numerous biological research projects at the Hanford superfund site.

Publications

Fidino, M., Herr, S. W., and Magle, S. B. (2018). Assessing online opinions of wildlife through social media. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, pages 1–9.

Fidino, M., Simonis, J. L., and Magle, S. B. (2018). A multi-state dynamic occupancy model to estimate local colonization-extinction rates and patterns of co-occurrence between two or more interacting species. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 0:1–12.

Gallo, T. and **Fidino, M.** (2018). Biodiversity: Making wildlife welcome in urban areas. *eLife*, 7:e41348.

Gallo, T., Lehrer, E. W., **Fidino, M.**, Kilgour, R. J., Wolff, P. J., and Magle, S. B. (2018). Need for multiscale planning for conservation of urban bats. *Conservation Biology*, 32(3):638–647.

Hopper, L. M., Egelkamp, C. L., **Fidino, M.**, and Ross, S. R. (2018). An assessment of touchscreens for testing primate food preferences and valuations. *Behavior Research Methods*, pages 1–12.

Magle, S. B. and **Fidino, M.** (2018). Long-term declines of a highly interactive urban species. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 27(14):3693–3706.

Murray, M. H., Fyffe, R., **Fidino, M.**, Byers, K. A., Rios, M. J., Mulligan, M. P., and Magle, S. B. (2018). Public complaints reflect rat relative abundance across diverse urban neighborhoods. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 6:189.

Saiyed, S. T., Liubicich, R. C., **Fidino, M.**, and Ross, S. R. (2018). Stillbirth rates across three ape species in accredited american zoos. *American journal of primatology*, page e22870.

Fidino, M. and Magle, S. B. (2017). Using fourier series to estimate periodic patterns in dynamic occupancy models. *Ecosphere*, 8(9).

Fidino, M. and Magle, S. B. (2017). Trends in long-term urban bird research. In *Ecology and Conservation of Birds in Urban Environments*, pages 161–184. Springer.

Fidino, M. (2017). *Urban Wildlife Through Space and Time*. PhD thesis.

Gallo, T., **Fidino, M.**, Lehrer, E. W., and Magle, S. B. (2017). Mammal diversity and metacommunity dynamics in urban green spaces: implications for urban wildlife conservation. *Ecological Applications*, 27(8):2330–2341.

Bender, J., **Fidino, M.**, Limbrick, K., and Magle, S. (2016). Assessing nest success of black-capped chickadees (poecile atricapillus) in an urban landscape using artificial cavities. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 128(2):425–429.

Fidino, M., Lehrer, E. W., and Magle, S. B. (2016). Habitat dynamics of the virginia opossum in a highly urban landscape. *The American Midland Naturalist*, 175(2):155–167.

Magle, S., Lehrer, E., and **Fidino, M.** (2016). Urban mesopredator distribution: examining the relative effects of landscape and socioeconomic factors. *Animal Conservation*, 19(2):163–175.

Selected Scientific Presentations

2018 Advancing urban wildlife knowledge through a multi-city collaboration. The Wildlife Society. Cincinnati, Ohio.

— Long-term declines of a highly interactive species. Society for Conservation Biology. Toronto, Ontario.

— Long-term declines of a highly interactive species. International Association for Landscape Ecology. Chicago, Illinois.

2017 Using Fourier series to predict periodic patterns in dynamic occupancy models. Ecological Society of America. Portland, Oregon.

— Quantifying the structural and functional connectivity of habitat patches for Chicago area mesocarnivores. International Urban Wildlife Conference. San Diego, California.

2016 A Bayesian approach to incorporate patterns of co-occurrence into multi-species occupancy models. Society for Conservation Biology. Madison, Wisconsin.

2015 Mesocarnivore dynamics in a highly fragmented, yet highly permeable urban landscape. Ecological Society of America. Baltimore, Maryland.

2014 Habitat dynamics of the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) in a highly urban landscape. The Wildlife Society. Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Selected Invited Presentations

2018 Advancing urban wildlife knowledge through a multi-city collaboration. International workshop on biodiveristy and the urban-rural interface. Linde, Germany.

2016 A historical analysis of bird species diversity in Lincoln Park, Chicago during spring migration. Seminar series for the Fort Dearborn Audubon Society. Chicago, Illinois.

— Urban wildlife through space and time. Seminar series at Butler University. Indianapolis, Indiana.

2014 A review of bird count methods. Chicago Audubon Society. Chicago, Illinois.

Grants and Awards

$600 **The American Bluebird Society** – Assessing the nest success of urban cavity nesting birds.

Teaching Experience

2017 **Software Carpentry course on R programming:** Assisted with course held at University of Illinois at Chicago.

2016 – Present **R programming and occupancy modeling:** Developed a two-day workshop to teach students, faculty and new partners to the Urban Wildlife Information Network the basics of R programming and how to model detection/non-detection data collected via camera trapping.

2016 **Workshop on generalized linear models, power analysis, and simulations in R:** Developed workshop to teach Lincoln Park Zoo staff on basics of generalized linear models and how to simulate data in R.

Reviewer

Biological Conservation

Canadian Journal of Zoology

Ecological Applications

Urban Ecosystems

The Wildlife Society Bulletin

Service and Outreach

Ph.D. Committee member for Anna Kase at University of South Dakota. Thesis topic: False map turtle (*Graptemys pseudogeographica*) abundance and habitat utilization in the Missouri River, South Dakota.

Academic Organizations

2015 – Present: Ecological Society of America

2017 – Present: Society for Conservation Biology

2014 – Present: The Wildlife Society