

Matthew G. DeSaix

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Education

M.S. Environmental Studies

EXPECTED 2018

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Migratory connectivity and population genetics in a migratory songbird

Advisors: Dr. Lesley Bulluck, Dr. Rodney Dyer & Dr. Cathy Viverette

B.S. Environmental Studies

2012

Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

Characterization of nitrate concentrations around a waste lagoon

Advisor: Dr. Laura Lengnick

Professional Experience

Crew Leader

SPRING & SUMMER 2017

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA

- Long-term breeding biology study on Prothonotary Warblers
- Supervision and training of 8 technicians; schedule coordination and data management
- Nest searching and monitoring, mist-netting, radio-frequency identification tag deployment

Researcher

SPRING 2017

Virginia Commonwealth University

Bath County, VA

- Geolocator deployment project for Cerulean Warblers (13 geolocator birds, 15 color-banded control birds)

Ornithologist

JUNE 2016 - AUGUST 2016

Operation Wallacea

Sani, Ecuador

- Led hikes and canoe trips through the Amazonian forest
- Taught field biology skills to high school groups; mist-netted 50 birds

Field Technician

FEBRUARY 2016 - JUNE 2016

United States Geological Survey

Hilo, HI

- Nest searching and monitoring for native Hawaiian forest birds
- Re-sighted color bands; manual radio telemetry

Laboratory Assistant

OCTOBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

Smithsonian Institute

Washington, D.C.

- DNA tissue extraction and PCR for barcoding of dwarfgobies

Field Technician MAY 2015 - AUGUST 2015
University of Wisconsin-Madison Georgetown, CA

- Behavioral monitoring of California Spotted Owls
- Captured and banded owls, re-sighted color bands, manual radio telemetry
- Navigated using GPS, maps, and compass in steep, canyon terrain

Field Technician AUGUST 2014 - DECEMBER 2014
Manu Project Madre de Dios, Peru

- Nest searching and monitoring of Amazonian forest birds
- Target netted birds (50) for metabolic experiments

Field Technician APRIL 2014 - JULY 2014
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory National Forests, New Mexico

- Presence-absence and reproductive surveys of Mexican Spotted Owls
- Extensive solo backpacking and wilderness navigation

Teaching

Mangrove Avian Field Ecology (BIOL 415 & ENVS 515) Spring 2017, 2018
Introduction to Biological Science Laboratory (BIOZ 151) Fall 2018

Awards & Honors

Teaching Assistantship August 2017 - May 2018
VCU Wetlands and Restoration Ecology Research Fellowship (\$6,000) 2017
VCU Rice Rivers Center Research Award (\$2,000) 2017
Research Assistantship August 2016 - May 2017

Skills

Computer

R, Rstudio, Shiny, ArcGIS suite, MaxEnt, GitHub, Adobe Illustrator, STACKs

Field

Nest searching, band re-sight, mist-netting, blood collection, radio telemetry, geolocator deployment

Languages

Spanish (Intermediate)

Outdoor

Backpacking, canoeing & whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, mountaineering, orienteering & wilderness first aid