

Lauren M. Deaner, M.S., CWB

Senior Ecologist



Expertise

Wildlife Ecology and Permitting

Avian Protection Plans

Habitat Conservation Plans

Environmental Compliance

Education

M.S., Biology, Georgia Southern University, 2015

B.S., Wildlife Conservation & Entomology, University of Delaware, 2005

Certifications

SWFWMD Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP)

US Department of Labor MSHA 30 CFR Part 46 and Part 48 Certifications

FDEP Qualified Stormwater Management Inspector 2006

Certified Wildlife Biologist® (CWB), The Wildlife Society

Master Bird Banding Permit (USGS Patuxent Bird Banding Laboratory)

Memberships & Affiliations

American Ornithological Society

Association of Field Ornithology

Florida Ornithological Society

The Wildlife Society

Florida Shorebird Alliance

Lauren has specialized experience in listed species recovery, avian studies, and avian translocation, but also has a vast knowledge of Florida ecosystems. Lauren also has proficient skills in data analyses, using field collected data to provide statistical inferences that aid in a wide variety of environmental permitting and conservation decisions. Additional skills and job duties include environmental assessments, listed species surveys, permitting, and wildlife relocation. Lauren assists the Flatwoods team in the state and federal wetland permit application process, Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) analysis, and wetland jurisdictional determinations in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. Lauren holds a master banding permit from the USGS Patuxent Bird Banding Laboratory and has more than fifteen years of experience capturing and banding birds. She has collected and analyzed population data on imperiled species and used those data to provide management recommendations. In addition, she has been trained by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in the Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP), by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and as a Qualified Stormwater Management Inspector.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND PERMITTING

Project Manager – Effects of Cattle on a Small Population of Burrowing Owls, Hillsborough County, Florida

Designed study to evaluate the effects of cattle on a small population of burrowing owls, and to monitor the effects of the implementation of habitat restoration.

Project Ecologist – Florida Scrub-Jay Translocation, Hillsborough & Manatee Counties, Florida

Annually captured, banded, radio-tagged and monitored Florida Scrub-Jays for six years to reduce the extinction risk of the meta-population and meet permit compliance.

Project Manager – Florida Scrub-Jay Nesting and Territory Surveys, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties, Florida

Conducted annual territory surveys for 40 family groups, located nests and monitored productivity. Banded nestlings and adults and collected blood samples. Analyzed data and prepared annual reports.

Project Ecologist – Island Scrub-Jay Banding and Tracking, Santa Cruz Island, California

Assisted the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Research Institute capturing, banding, and fitting radio transmitters on Island Scrub-Jays to better understand movements of non-breeding birds.

Project Ecologist - Translocation of Burrowing Owls, Hillsborough and Polk Counties, Florida

Conducted surveys to determine the population size of burrowing owls on a specific mining unit. Lead trapping and banding efforts and relocated nine burrowing owls.

Project Ecologist - Substation and Transmission Line, Throughout Florida

Provided site assessments, wetland delineations, general and species-specific listed species surveys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and FWC listed species permitting, listed species relocations, and permit compliance monitoring for several substations and transmission lines in Florida.

Project Ecologist – Crested Caracara Surveys and Nest Monitoring – Throughout Florida

Surveyed nesting Crested caracara according to USFWS protocol, exceeding the standards for a qualified observer. Several projects ranging multiple years included nest searching, productivity monitoring, and assisting attachment of transmitters to monitor movements.

Project Ecologist – Gopher Tortoise Surveys and Relocations, Throughout Florida

Surveyed, excavated and relocated gopher tortoises and gopher tortoise burrow commensals to on-site and off-site recipient sites as an assistant to a FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent in preparation for GTA permit.

Avian Protection Plans

Project Manager – Avian Protection Plan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky

Designed and implemented an avian protection plan for a large utility company to reduce avian interactions with electrical utilities. Aspects of the plan included conducting biological surveys, developing an avian risk assessment, research and development of construction and retrofitting techniques to make electrical utilities avian-safe, developing standard procedures to address avian injuries/mortalities, nest management techniques, and developing an employee training program.

Project Ecologist - Avian Protection Plan and Avian Risk Assessment, Central Florida

Developed methods of data collection and completed data analyses to better understand increased risk of avian interactions with utility structures in a fluid system of electrical structures. Conducted an avian risk assessment and researched and developed retrofitting techniques to make electrical utilities avian-safe.

Project Ecologist – Avian Protection Plan, North Carolina & South Carolina

Assisted Project Manager with field data collection to validate modeling data inputs for creation of an avian protection plan for a large utility company to reduce avian interactions with electrical utilities. Led biological surveys and assisted with research and development of construction and retrofitting techniques to make electrical utilities avian-safe, developing standard procedures to address avian injuries/mortalities, nest management techniques, and developing an employee training program.

Environmental Compliance

Project Manager – Wetland Assessment Procedure Assessments in Pasco and Hillsborough Counties

Managed wetland assessments according to the WAP for 104 sites for SWFWMD. Trained additional staff in proper procedure and plant identification. Responsible for data compilation and coordination of field teams.

Project Ecologist - Vegetative/Hydrologic Assessments, Hardee County, Florida

Conducted wetland assessments at over 80 wetland sites. These assessments occurred along transects where four vegetative strata were evaluated. Vegetative data were collected and compared to surveyed elevations of ground surface and Seasonal High Water (SHW). Soil subsidence and water levels in established wells were also measured. These data were used to monitor changes in wetland hydrology.

Project Ecologist – Baseline Ecological Inventories, Hardee County, Florida

Conducted wetland assessments at over 80 wetland sites. These assessments occurred along transects where four vegetative strata were evaluated. Vegetative data were collected and compared to surveyed elevations of ground surface and SHW. Soil subsidence and water levels in established wells were also measured. These data were used to monitor changes in wetland hydrology.

Project Ecologist – Morris Bridge Wellfield Hydrological and Ecological Monitoring Program, Hillsborough County, Florida

Performs the ecological monitoring program developed for the Morris Bridge Wellfield. Services have included assisting in quantitative and qualitative monitoring of vegetative changes (Wetland Assessment Procedure, WAP), and assessment of wetland condition.

Project Manager - Wetland Restoration Monitoring

Monitored created mitigation wetlands and performed statistical analyses of vegetative data. Determined permit compliance issues and suggested remedies to attain wetland release from regulating agencies.

Project Ecologist – Wetland Delineation, Central Florida

Assisted in conducting wetland delineations throughout central Florida.

Project Ecologist - Conducted a wetland assessment using Florida's UMAM on a 7,500-acre site in Central Florida

Conducted field observations and collected data to assess wetland conditions and wildlife use. Ultimately this information is used to determine the amount of mitigation necessary for unavoidable impacts.

PUBLICATIONS

Deaner, L. 2010. Florida scrub-jay preys on common nighthawk eggs. *Florida Field Naturalist* 38(1):12-14.

Cox, L. 2015. Breeding Ecology of Wilson's Plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*): Reproductive Success, Habitat Use, and Sex Roles. Thesis. Georgia Southern University, 2015.