

Lauren M. Deaner, M.S., CWB®

Ecologist



Expertise

Wildlife Ecology and Permitting

Ornithology

Wildlife Restoration and Translocation

Education

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

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

Certifications

SWFWMD Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) Training 2006

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 Ornithologist Union

Association of Field Ornithology

Florida Ornithological Society

The Wildlife Society

Florida Shorebird Alliance

Lauren Cox is knowledgeable of a diverse array of Florida ecosystems. She has specialized experience in listed species recovery, avian studies, and avian translocation. Additional skills and job duties include environmental assessments, listed species surveys, permitting, and relocation. Lauren also 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 ten 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 in the Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) and by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as a Qualified Stormwater Management Inspector.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND PERMITTING

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) listed species permitting, listed species relocations, and permit compliance monitoring for several substations and transmission lines in Florida.

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.

Project Manager - White-Tailed Deer Harvest Analysis and Recommendations, Manatee County, Florida

Collected and analyzed data from spotlight counts and annual harvests. Provided harvest recommendations for a white-tailed deer population within a 22,000-acre preserve.

Assistant Project Manager - City of Cape Coral Habitat Conservation Plan, Cape Coral, Florida

Developed and implemented survey methods for burrowing owls in an urban setting. Coordinated survey efforts between volunteers and staff and led survey teams. Trained and managed teams of volunteers and staff. Created base reserve design and alternatives for a Habitat Conservation Plan. Developed Adaptive Management Plan for Burrowing Owls in Cape Coral, Florida.

Project Ecologist - Charlotte County Habitat Conservation Plan, Charlotte County, Florida

Managed and conducted Florida scrub-jay population surveys and habitat assessments throughout the county. Assisted in developing base and alternative reserve designs prior to population viability modeling.

Project Manager – Avian Community Comparison of Created Wetland Habitats, Polk County, Florida

Conducted avian and vegetative surveys to determine similarities and differences in avian diversity and abundance among forested wetland types.

ORNITHOLOGY

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

Conducted annual territory surveys for 28 family groups, located nests and monitored productivity. Assisted with banding and calculating reproductive success. Prepared annual reports and provided habitat management recommendations.

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 Manager – Burrowing Owl Food Availability Arthropod Sampling, Hillsborough and Polk County, Florida

Designed and implemented a one year seasonal study that compared arthropod prey availability between existing pasture where burrowing owls existed and reclaimed pasture where burrowing owls were translocated.

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. Conducted monitoring of burrowing owls through four weeks of penning and the breeding season after release to assess viability and site fidelity. Assessed parental care during nestling phase via remote cameras and banded all nestlings.

Project Manager - Use of Created Coastal Upland Habitats by Neotropical Migratory Songbirds, Hillsborough County, Florida

Designed and implemented study with the aid of grants. Operated banding station within three habitat types. Banded migratory passerines and collected morphological measurements during spring and fall migration to assess use of created habitats and condition of migratory songbirds. Prepared annual reports, delivered educational presentations, and prepared all grant applications.

Assistant Project Manager –Florida Mouse Population Study, Hardee County, Florida

Designed and implemented study to determine translocation success of Florida mouse to a xeric oak reclamation site. Led and coordinated surveys sampling 20% of the 100 acre site. Performed data analyses to determine population stability using program MARK.

Project Ecologist – Crested Caracara Surveys – Bald Eagle Monitoring, Okeechobee and Polk Counties, Florida

Conducted crested caracara territory surveys, nest surveys, recording behavioral observations, nest monitoring. Conducted bald eagle nest monitoring during active roadway improvement construction. Documented eagle behavior observations, flight patterns, and feeding of juvenile eagles per USFWS bald eagle monitoring guidelines. Submitted bald eagle monitoring documentation to staff Project Manager and FWC Project Manager with brief summary of daily observations and corrective action measures if applicable.

Project Ecologist - Wood Stork Forage Biomass Analysis, South Florida

Conducted forage availability analysis of a 565-acre mitigation bank to determine credits used to offset impacts to wood stork forage areas.

Project Manager - Saltmarsh and Seaside Sparrow Banding, Central Florida

Designed and implemented a study to determine distribution, site fidelity, and survival of Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows in the Tampa Bay region. Captured, color-banded, and monitored sparrows on the central Gulf Coast of Florida in association with local partners.

WETLAND ECOLOGY

Project Manager – Wetland Assessment Procedure Assessments in Pasco County

Managed wetland assessments according to the Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) for 104 sites for Southwest Florida Water Management District. 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 74 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.

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 Ecologist - 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 Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (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.