

Nathan M. Tarr

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Education

Master of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695

August 2005 – December 2008

Minor: Statistics

Advisor: Dr. Theodore R. Simons

Thesis: Fall migration and vehicle disturbance of shorebirds at South Core Banks, North Carolina

Bachelor of Arts

Guilford College, Greensboro, NC 27410

August 1996 - May 2000

Majors: Life Sciences and Environmental Studies

Professional Experience

Biologist, GIS and Database Specialist, November 2009 – Present

Biodiversity and Spatial Information Center

Department of Biology, North Carolina State University

- Model vertebrate species distributions for the national Gap Analysis Program.

Conservation Recommendations Research Technician, January – November 2009

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

- Synthesized scientific literature on the habitat needs of North Carolina's priority species for conservation.
- Drafted conservation recommendations for land use planners and developers.

Research Assistant, January – November 2009

USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Principle Investigator: Dr. C. Ashton Drew

- Reviewed scientific literature on the habitat relationships of Swainson's Warblers for use in spatially-explicit habitat models.
- Hired field assistants for secretive marsh bird surveys in wildlife refuges.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August – December 2008

Department of Plant Biology, North Carolina State University

- Instructed two lab sections of "Introduction to Ecology."

Graduate Research Assistant, August 2005 – August 2008

USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Principle Investigator: Dr. Theodore R. Simons

- Developed, conducted, and analyzed an experimental field study of the effects of vehicle disturbance on shorebirds' habitat use and behavior at Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC.
- Performed extensive shorebird surveys at South Core Banks, NC.
- Hired, trained and supervised five field assistants.
- Worked cooperatively with National Park Service biologists and law enforcement staff to conduct research and implement beach closures.

Research Technician, May - June 2008

USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Principal Investigator: Dr. Theodore R. Simons

- Participated in field research that assessed different methods for estimating detection probabilities during avian point count surveys.
- Performed modified point counts along 12 Breeding Bird Survey routes in central North Carolina.

Teaching Assistant, January - May 2006

Department of Zoology, North Carolina State University

- Instructed two lab sections of "Evolution, Behavior, and Ecology"

Research Technician, February - June 2005

USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Principal Investigator: Dr. Sarah Mabey

- Assisted with a project that used radar imagery to identify migratory landbird stopover sites in North Carolina and Virginia.
- Ordered, downloaded, reviewed, and exported Nexrad WSR-88D imagery from the National Climatic Data Center.

Research Technician, May - July 2004

USGS North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Principal Investigator: Dr. Theodore R. Simons

- Collected field data on spatial and temporal variations in Black-throated Blue Warbler and Ovenbird singing rates, Pisgah National Forest, NC.
- Located and monitored nests, sampled singing rates, and sampled vegetation at study sites.

Research Technician, April 2004

Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University

Principal Investigators: Dr. George Hess and Dr. Christopher Moorman

- Conducted songbird surveys along transects in Raleigh and Cary, NC for a study of habitat use by migrating songbirds in urban greenways.

Assistant Produce Team Leader, February 2003 - March 2004

Whole Foods Market, Pittsburgh, PA and Durham, NC

- Ordered and inventoried produce in accordance with department's target profit margin and implemented new regional standards and performance goals.

- Oversaw product merchandising, quality control, and employee performance.
- Supervised 25 team members and trained new employees.

Research Technician, April 2002 - June 2002

Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University

Principal Investigators: Dr. George Hess and Dr. Christopher Moorman

- Performed point count surveys of songbirds in Raleigh and Cary, NC for a study of the relationship between urban greenway landscape characteristics and breeding birds.

Research Technician, June 2000 - July 2002

Mears Fork Corridor Project, Summerfield, NC

Supervisor: Moni Bates

- Created and implemented an annual bird survey protocol for assessing the effectiveness of habitat conservation efforts along Mears Fork Creek in NC.

Volunteer Experience

Painted Bunting Population Assessment and Monitoring Project, Spring 2007

USGS, USFWS, and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

- Performed Painted Bunting surveys at 18 sites in coastal North Carolina.

All Bird Radio Project, Fall 2004 - Spring 2007

USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, North Carolina State University

- Participated in a study of avian point count methods and bird detectability.
- Performed simulated point count surveys of recorded bird songs.

Bird Banding, 2003

Powdermill Avian Research Center, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Rector, PA

- Collected, banded, and recorded data on birds caught in mist nets as part of ongoing banding efforts.

Workshops Completed

“Ecology, management, and identification of migratory and resident birds,” May 17, 2007, Asheville, NC. Presented by the NC Wildlife Resource Commission, NC Cooperative Extension Forestry, and NC Partners in Flight.

“Learning ArcGIS Desktop,” January 2006, ESRI Online Virtual Campus Training. 24 hours.

“Mediation and conflict resolution,” Spring 2000, Greensboro, NC. Presented by Vernie Davis. 8 hours.

Relevant Skills

Visual and auditory identification of eastern North American birds, bird survey methods, bird banding techniques, ATV operation, nest-searching, Microsoft Word, Access, and Excel, ArcGIS, SAS, JMP, PCORD, MARK,.

Publications

Tarr, N.M., Simons, T.R., and K. H. Pollock. 2010. An experimental assessment of vehicle disturbance effects on migratory shorebirds. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. *In review*.

Presentations

Tarr, N.M. and T.R. Simons. 2009. Vehicle disturbance of nonbreeding shorebirds at South Core Banks, North Carolina. Piedmont Bird Club, Greensboro, NC.

Tarr, N.M. and T.R. Simons. 2008. Vehicle disturbance of nonbreeding shorebirds at South Core Banks, North Carolina. North Carolina Partners in Flight, Conover, NC.

Tarr, N. M., T. R. Simons, and K. H. Pollock. 2008. The effects of off-road vehicle disturbance on nonbreeding shorebird behavior and habitat use. Poster presentation. American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society, Portland, OR.

Tarr, N. M. and T. R. Simons. 2008. ORV disturbance and fall waterbird migration at Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina. North Carolina Colonial Waterbird Working Group, Swansboro, NC.

Tarr, N. M. and T. R. Simons. 2008. An experimental approach to studying the effects of ORV disturbance on nonbreeding shorebirds. Cape Lookout National Seashore staff, Harkers Island, NC.

O'Connell, A. F., T. R. Simons, A. Waldstein, S. Schulte, and N. M. Tarr. 2008. Raccoon ecology and protected species management at Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina. US Geological Survey's New England Disciplines Management Council (NEDMAC) Science Forum Troy, NY.

Tarr, N. M. and T. R. Simons. 2007. ORV disturbance and wintering shorebirds. North Carolina Colonial Waterbird Working Group, Swansboro, NC.

Tarr, N. M. 2001. Surveying the birds of Mears Fork Creek. Piedmont Bird Club, Greensboro, NC.

Positions and Awards

NCSU Zoology Graduate Student Association library liaison, spring 2006 - spring 2008
American Ornithologists' Union Marcia Brady Tucker Student Travel Award, 2008, \$350
Best presentation by an M.S. student, Zoology Department of Zoology Graduate Student Symposium, 2008, \$200
Cooper Ornithological Society student membership award, 2007

Professional Associations

Wilson Ornithological Society 2006
The North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2006
The Wildlife Society 2006