

Deja Perkins

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Education

North Carolina State University

2018-2020

M.Sc. Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Biology

GPA: 3.75

Tuskegee University, AL

2014-2018

B.S. Environmental, Natural Resources and Plant Sciences: Wildlife Concentration

GPA: 3.75

Mississippi State University, Ms

2017-2018

Non-Degree Seeking Student

Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture

GPA: 3.5

Work Experience

Audubon North Carolina Coastal Resilience Intern

6/22/2020-8/7/2020

- Created “research partner engagement strategy” for new academic research partners
- Compiled information on priority bird species at Pine Island Sanctuary to support a marsh restoration project.
- Created virtual content to amplify Audubon’s programming at Pine Island.
- Habitat management in the field on the North Carolina coast.
- Pelican nest monitoring
- Royal Tern Banding

Triangle Bird Count Research Assistant

8/2018-Present

- Created maps using ArcMap looking at greenspaces, bird occurrence data and income data layers
- Created story maps using arc online and arc map.
- Conducted avian point count surveys in an urban environment.
- Managed program volunteers and organized program training workshops.
- Collected 360 images for VR outreach programs and future vegetation analysis.
- Created new content to update website as needed
- Designed bird based activities for community engagement programs

Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center Graduate Student Intern

8/2019-Present

- Prepared written science communication documents for program website.
- Assisted with the planning and organizing of a Regional Science Symposium.
- Organized a Scientific Poster and Tools Networking Session
- Designed website pages to contribute to development of new program web pages

USDA Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center Animal Care & Research Intern

9/2017-7/2018

- Collected routine health parameters such as blood samples, body temperatures and fecal samples from Great Egrets and feral swine, as well as administer euthanasia at close of study.
- Performed necropsies of Double Crested Cormorants and Lesser Scaup and retrieve various body samples including feathers, muscle tissue, sub-q fat, blood, liver, upper and lower GI as well as gained experience sexing Double Crested Cormorants and Lesser Scaup.
- Performed stomach content analysis of Double Crested Cormorants and Lesser Scaup, gaining experience with fish ID, macro-invertebrate ID and seed ID.
- Provide daily animal care for research animals including feeding and cleaning.
- Completed data collection for various projects.

Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee REU

05/22/17 – 07/28/17

- Conducted independent toxicology research on honey bee larvae.
- Became familiar with proper lab safety, common lab tools, and became comfortable working with common chemicals within a lab.
- Conducted hive inspections and maintenance in 4 different hives across Atlanta metro.

Student Conservation Association “CDIP” Visitor Services Intern

05/2016 - 08/2016

- Initiated informal visitor contacts and provided visitors natural, cultural, and scientific information about the resources at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Lead weekly weekend guided hikes on the refuge trails and conducted interpretive programs.
- Held monthly community fishing days for kids and adults.
- Created an interactive program teaching audiences ranging from 15-100 people ages 10-30 years old about pollinators.
- Assisted Environmental Education Staff with "Explorers Camp" Macro Invertebrate Surveys for kids 8-11 years old.
- Assisted with outreach programs for students aged 5-18 with a variety of racial backgrounds who participated in fishing, archery, insect surveys, and radio telemetry activities.

Southeastern Raptor Center Education Volunteer

09/2015 - 05/2016

- Educate the public on birds of prey found all over the United States.

- Interact with crowds ranging from 50-500 people while handling one of the various birds of prey that the Southeastern Raptor Center houses.
- Participate in the daily training and care of education birds.

Fishin' Buddies Inc Team Leader/ Instructor

06/2015 – 08/2015

- Instructed junior and senior high school students throughout a four-week internship program. Developed daily & weekly lesson plans, homework assignments, quizzes, and test related to the various topics covered during the Youth Conservation Conference.
- Instructed 10-15 year olds on the fundamentals of fishing and archery, as well as assisted the children on a fishing trip.
- Organized and directed volunteers during the annual Kid's Fest, a free public 1200+- attendee event.

Administrative Assistant

06/2014 – 08/2014

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

- Organized and kept files for various kids programs. Planned annual Kid's Fest event by contacting over 30 organizations by email, phone or fax. Coordinated areas where participants would conduct advertising for Kid's Fest Event. Conducted day to day operations of the main office.

Other Related Experience

- Environmental Programming 2019-2020
 - Created interactive activities including 360 habitat videos and bird ID games for Museum of Life and Science (Durham, NC) Visitors.
 - Created bird watching activities for 45+ high school students at NCSU Environmental Career Day.
 - Led a bird walk and intro to citizen science program for 66 6th graders during Carrington Middle School's Inaugural Science Day.
 - Led a bird banding demonstration and bird walk for Raleigh Parks 2020 Youth Conservation Program.
- Planning and Development 2018 -2020
 - Planned the "Food and Water Security under a Changing Climate" Seminar for the USGS Global Change Fellow Seminar Series at NCSU.
 - Assisted with the planning of the "Wildfire Management Under a Changing Climate" seminar for the USGS Global Change Fellow Seminar Series at NCSU.
 - Assisted the website development for the R.L Rabb Science Research Symposium held at NCSU.
 - Website development for Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SECASC) Regional Science Symposium.
 - Assisted with planning of the SECASC 2019 Regional Science Symposium.
 - Coordinated a Poster Session for the 2019 SECASC Regional Science Symposium.
 - Co-organizer of #BlackBirdersWeek social media movement.
 - Organized #BirdingWhileBlack Livestream Facebook discussion hosted by

National Audubon.

- Bird Banding 2018-2020
 - Assisted with the capture of red tailed hawks using Bal-cha-tri traps. Restrained Red-tailed Hawks while wing chord, weight and other measurements were taken.
 - Released song birds after capture and banding from mist netting procedures during Ornithology lab.
 - Assisted with a Monitoring Avian Productivity (MAP) station.
 - Royal Tern Banding with Audubon North Carolina
- Bird ID 2018-2020
 - Experience with Eastern North American bird ID through both sight and sound through field intensive Ornithology course.
 - Conducted over 70 point count surveys for the Triangle Bird Count.
- Mentorship
 - Mentored high school students during the 2019 NCSU Women in the Environment Conference Student Mentorship Lunch.
 - 2020 North American Congress for Conservation Biology Mentorship Panelist

Job Related Training

- Defensive Driving course completed September 2017.

Publications

- Bethany Terpin, Deja Perkins, Stephanie Richter, Jennifer Kraft Leavey, Terry W. Snell, and John A. Pierson. A scientific note on the effect of oxalic acid on honey bee larvae. Apidologie 2019

Affiliations

- National Society of Leadership and Success – Member
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences – Member
- Society of Wetland Scientists –Member
- Natural Resource and Conservation Club – Tuskegee University – Founder
- Public Science Cluster – Graduate Student Member
- Growing Environmental Leaders of Color (GELOC) - Member

Awards

- USGS Climate Adaptation Science Center Global Change Fellow 2018-2019
- NCSU Provost Fellow 2018-2019
- USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program Participant Washington, D.C. February 2017
- Society of Wetland Scientist Multicultural Mentoring Program June 2017 Participant Puerto Rico
- US Fish & Wildlife Teddy Roosevelt Award 2015
- Tuskegee University Presidential Scholar 2014- 2018

Professional Presentations

- Perkins, D 2018.Effects of Oxalic Acid on Larval Development. Oral presentation at the Georgia Beekeeping Association 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting in Griffin, GA February 17, 2018

- Perkins, D., and Katti, M. 2019. Blind Spots, Hot Spots and Green Spots; The Story of Green in the Black Community. Oral Presentation at the Black Communities Conference in Durham, NC, 9-11 September, 2019.
- Perkins, D. 2020. Citizens in Citizen Science; Volunteer Biases in Bird Based Data Collection. Oral Presentation at Chapel Hill Bird Club, Chapel Hill, NC, February 24, 2020.
- Perkins, D. 2020. Black Birders Week: The Hashtag that Started a Movement. Virtual Presentation at NC Museum of Natural Sciences Science Café, July 2, 2020
- Watts, S., Finney, C., Katti, M., Keville, Greenlaw, S., M., Young, T., Lambert, M., Perkins, D., and Schell, C. 2020. “Why Conservation Science Needs to Prioritize Racial and Social Justice.” NACCB 2020 Opening Plenary July 27, 2020.
- Perkins, D., 2020. Birdy Office Hours: Black Birders Week and Audubon NC. Virtual presentation with Audubon North Carolina.
- Perkins, D., 2020. Bird Seed: Finding my Flock; A Conservation Story. Virtual Presentation with Chicago Audubon Society August 11, 2020.

Skills

- Website Development (Intermediate in Wordpress and Wix)
- R (Basic understanding)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel)
- Google Suite (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms)
- Photography (DSLR)
- Video Development (Intermediate)
- Arc Map 10.6 and Arc Online (Intermediate)
- Bird Capture Techniques (Mist Netting, Bal-chatri Traps)