

Deja Perkins
PhD Student
Center for Geospatial Analytics
Email: djperkin@ncsu.edu
Phone Number: 773-879-1387

Education

North Carolina State University

2021-2025

Ph.D. Geospatial Analytics

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

IDEAL Working Group Logistics Coordinator

3/2022 - Present

- Coordinate logistics for the IDEAL Participatory Science Working Group.

Community Engagement Specialist

11/10/2020-07/13/2021

- Coordinated nationwide citizen science project to investigate presence of lead pipes across the US, including development of project materials and engagement of participants; development of research credit course (NR294- Crowd the Tap) to mentor diverse undergraduate students in conducting community engaged research; planned and developed weekly livestream show engaging NCSU student body and broader North Carolina community with citizen science projects in North Carolina.

Master Naturalist Instructor: Duke Gardens

9/1/2020-12/4/2020

- Developed a “Natural History of Birds Course” including 4 weeks of bird based curriculum and outdoor assignments for adult learners.

Audubon North Carolina Coastal Resilience Intern

6/22/2020-8/7/2020

- Developed materials for engagement of future partners including “Academic Partner Research Engagement Strategy” and Priority Bird Species Report; and biological management including habitat management on NC Coast; bird population monitoring (Pelican nest monitoring and Royal Tern Banding)

Triangle Bird Count Research Assistant

8/2018-5/2020

- Coordinated volunteers and developed activities and materials for engagement of local communities including ArcGIS story maps, community bird surveys and Virtual Reality activities. Evaluated program and recruitment strategies for effectiveness. Created a plan to engage new birders in bird based citizen science projects.

Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center Graduate Student Intern

8/2019-5/2020

- Assisted with planning of Southeast CASC programs including preparation of written science communication; inaugural Regional Science Symposium; organized symposium Scientific Poster and Tools Networking Session; and designed website pages to contribute to development of new program website.

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

9/2017-7/2018

- Provide daily animal care for research animals including feeding and cleaning, and completed data collection for various projects including routine health parameters for research animals such as (blood samples, body temp and fecal samples) from Great Egrets and feral swine (and euthanasia); necropsies of Double Crested Cormorants and Lesser Scaup and retrieval of body samples (feathers, muscle tissue, sub-q fat, blood, liver, upper and lower GI); stomach content analysis of Double Crested Cormorants and Lesser Scaup, gaining experience with fish ID, macro-invertebrate ID and seed ID.

Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee REU

05/22/17 – 07/28/17

- Conducted independent toxicology research on honey bee larvae including conducting hive inspections and maintenance and gaining familiarity with proper lab safety, common lab tools, and became comfortable working with common chemicals within a lab.

Student Conservation Association “CDIP” Visitor Services Intern

05/2016 - 08/2016

- Assisted with the engagement of local community including weekly weekend guided hikes and interpretive programs; monthly community fishing days; "Explorers Camp" macroinvertebrate surveys; developed pollinator program; and initiated informal visitor contacts providing visitors natural, cultural, and scientific information about the resources at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Southeastern Raptor Center Education Volunteer

09/2015 - 05/2016

- Interacted with and educated the public (50-500 people) on birds of the southeastern US

and participated in the daily training and care of education birds of prey.

Fishin' Buddies Inc Team Leader/ Instructor

06/2015 – 08/2015

- Assisted with organization and implementation of YCC programs including development of YCC educational materials and instructing junior and senior YCC interns; instruction of fishing and archery camps; and coordination of volunteers during the annual “Kids” Fest, a free public 1200+- attendee event.

Fishin' Buddies Inc Administrative Assistant

06/2014 – 08/2014

- Coordinated annual “Kids Fest” and conducted day to day operations of the main office.

Publications

Mahmoudi, D., Hawn, C. L., Henry, E. H., Perkins, D. J., Cooper, C. B., & Wilson, S. M. (2022). Mapping for Whom? Communities of Color and the Citizen Science Gap. *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 21(4), 372–388.

Terpin, B., Perkins, D., Richter, S., Leavey, J. K., Snell, T. W., & Pierson, J. A. (2019). A scientific note on the effect of oxalic acid on honey bee larvae. *Apidologie*, 50(3), 363-368.

Honors and Awards

- 2022 Audubon North Carolina Bird Lore Conservation Education Award
- National Wildlife Federation National Conservation Achievement Award in the category of Young Leader 2022
- Recognized as a STEM Leader in North Carolina by Governor Roy Cooper 2022
- 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

Leadership and Mentorship

- Black Graduate Student Association President 2022-2023
- Graduate Student Association Legislative Affairs and Student Advocacy Committee 2022-2023
- Black AF in STEM Collective – Co-founder
- Co-organized Black Birders Week 2020-2022
- IDEAL Participatory Science Working Group (Organizing Committee Member)

- Natural Resource and Conservation Club – Tuskegee University (Founder)
- Mentored undergraduate students through development of research projects during 2021 Crowd the Tap Student Ambassador Program
- 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
- Planned “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 website development for the R.L Rabb Science Research Symposium (NCSU).
- Co-developed website for Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SECASC) Regional Science Symposium.
- Assisted with planning of the SECASC 2019 Regional Science Symposium.
- Coordinated Poster Session for the 2019 SECASC Regional Science Symposium.
- Co-organized #BlackBirdersWeek, #BlackBirderWeek2022 social media campaign.
- Organized #BirdingWhileBlack Livestream Facebook discussion hosted by National Audubon.
- Planned weekly livestream show “Make it Count Monday” (broadcast to Facebook and Youtube) to break down barriers of participation in citizen science.
- Created social media communications plan for National Wildlife Federation “Safe Outdoor Spaces” round table events in conjunction with Black AF in STEM Collective.

Professional Presentations and Guest Lectures

Perkins, D. "Birds, Birders, Birding: Connecting People and Places" 2022 Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (invited)

Mahamoudi, D., Cooper, C., Perkins, D., 2022. European Citizen Science Association Empowerment, Inclusion and Equity Working Group Webinar (invited)

Perkins, D. 2022 Annual William C. Vaughan Memorial Lecture (invited)

Cooper, C., and Perkins, D. 2022. “What’s in a Name? Transforming Citizen Science into a Diverse, Inclusive, Equitable Practice”. Yale School of the Environment BIOMES Lecture September 21 2022 (invited)

Guest Lecture/Lab Duke University: Urban Bird Survey Techniques February 2022 (invited)

Perkins, D., Cooper, C., Hawn, C., and Larson, L. 2022. “Lack of diversity and inclusion in citizen science is a data quality issue” AAAS Symposium Scientific Session "Diversity and Inclusion in Citizen Science.” January 2022

- Perkins, D., Cooper, C, Henry, E, and Katti, M. 2021 “Bias in birdwatchers: Does neighborhood incomes affect estimates of bird richness?”. Oral Symposium American Ornithological Society. Symposium entitled "Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice: Research and practice in bird conservation."
- Perkins, D., 2021 Spotlight On...BlackBirdersWeek. Presentation with Girls STEAM Success Club May 2021
- Perkins, D., and Moreno, S. SciStarter Citizen Science Month Lunchtime CitSci Chat: Inclusive Citizen Science April 2021
- Wilson Ornithological Society & Northeast Natural History Society Conference Panel: “Black Birders Exploring Wild Places and Confronting White Spaces in Ornithology” April 2021
- Perkins, D., 2021. “Equity in Birding: Does where we go birding matter?” Presentation with Georgia Audubon
- Perkins, D. 2021. Duke Ecology Seminar March 2021
- Perkins, D., 2020. Bird Seed: Finding my Flock; A Conservation Story. Virtual Presentation with Chicago Audubon Society August 11, 2020.
- Perkins, D., 2020. Birdy Office Hours: Black Birders Week and Audubon NC. Virtual presentation with Audubon North Carolina.
- 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. Black Birders Week: The Hashtag that Started a Movement. Virtual Presentation at NC Museum of Natural Sciences Science Café, July 2, 2020
- 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., 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 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

Community Engagement 2019-2022

- Engaged 30 middle school students in bird surveys on Central Middle School’s campus. (2022)
- Panelist Career Panel Leesville Road Highschool (February 2022)
- Led a birding activity for the Neighborhood Ecology Core Walnut Creek Wetland Center (March 2022)
- Engaged high school students during NCMSSEN “STEM Day”(March 2021)

- Moderated “Birds On My Block” #BlackBirdersWeek2021 Panel Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with BlackAFinSTEM (May 2021)
- Moderated “Diving into Falconry with Rodney Stotts” #BlackBirdersWeek2021 Panel Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with BlackAFinSTEM (June 2021)
- Panelist “Black Girl Magic in the Outdoors” Panel Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation (March 2021)
- Virtual Advocacy Day Panel Openlands (March 2021)
- EcoEXPLORERS Ornithology North Carolina Museum of Natural Science (February 2021)
- Leading L.A.D.I.E.S. Leading Ladies of STEM panel (January 2021)
- Girls STEAM Success Club “So you study birds” Guest Lecture (January 2021)
- Led a bird banding demonstration and bird walk for Raleigh Parks 2020 Youth Conservation Program. (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.

Ornithology Service 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.
- Banded Royal Terns with Audubon North Carolina
- Experienced with Eastern North American bird ID through both sight and sound through field intensive Ornithology courses.
- Conducted over 70 point count surveys for the Triangle Bird Count.

Certifications

- CITI Training January 2021
- Defensive Driving Certification completed September 2017.

Affiliations

- Black Graduate Student Association – President 2022-2023
- Graduate Student Association- Committee Member 2022-2023
- National Society of Leadership and Success – Member

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences – Member

- Society of Wetland Scientists –Member
- Public Science Cluster – Graduate Student Member
- Growing Environmental Leaders of Color (GELOC) – Member

Skills

- Website Development (Wordpress, Wix, html)
- R (Intermediate)
- Python (Advanced beginner)
- Visualization (Tableau, RawGraphs, ggplot2, QGIS, Leaflet)
- ESRI (ArcMap 10.6, ArcPro, Arc StoryMap, and ArcOnline)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel)
- Google Suite (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms)
- Photography (DSLR)
- Video Development (iMovie, Adobe Premier Rush, Adobe Rush)
- Bird Capture Techniques (Mist Netting, Bal-chatri Traps)