
TERI BALSER

SKILLS

- Vegetation identification & description
- Wildlife & habitat research
- Data automation & analysis
- Scientific writing & editing
- GIS data management & analysis
- Statistics: SAS, R, PC-ORD, TreeNet
- Fully proficient on Mac & PC, including MS Office suite (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), advanced graphing & analysis with specialized software

EXPERIENCE

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee

Climate Change Institute Research Intern

April 2015 - present

Support a larger research project addressing the pan-arctic scale permafrost carbon feedback to global climate. Focus on data and scaling issues related to permafrost thaw and transitions in targeted remote sensing studies. Interpret Landsat images for vegetative cover and landscape change dynamics.

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska

Graduate Research Biologist (Wildlife)

Aug 2007- Dec 2013

Designed and conducted my thesis research on avian breeding ecology and habitat associations throughout remote, arctic Alaska.

- Collected, managed and analyzed multi-thematic data. Interpreted results and generated figures and tables to support research findings.
- Classified vegetation communities using Viereck's Alaska Vegetation Classification, Kessel's Bird Habitat Classification for Alaska, and National Wetland Inventory Classification. Identified plant species using dichotomous keys. Recorded percent cover of species, functional types, and landcover classes within 100m radius of bird survey points.
- Conducted distance based point-count bird surveys, found and monitored nests, trapped and banded approximately 350 adult and hatch year birds. Performed distance sampling analyses to calculate bird density. Estimated nest success and adult and chick survival.
- Designed and managed spreadsheets and databases for over 10,000 entries. Organized and analyzed over 15 million data points using ArcGIS software and spatial datasets.
- Authored research proposals, annual reports, and published scientific manuscripts. Presented research to students, professionals, and the general public.
- Recruited, trained, and supervised over 30 crewmembers to follow protocols.
- Responsible for budgets, equipment purchases, field camp operations, and logistics.

Research Technician (Crew Leader)

May-Aug 2013

Crew Leader for field research investigating avian breeding ecology and nesting habitat in Seward Peninsula, Alaska.

- Instructed and supervised crewmembers to follow research and safety protocols.

- Found and monitored nests; trapped and banded approximately 150 adults and juveniles.
- Trained crew in plant identification. Recorded vegetation percent cover and height in 1m plots.
- Responsible for recordkeeping including organization of hardcopy data and data entry and proofing of MS Access database. Ran queries and generated reports to assist with planning.
- Researched and located available imagery for study areas to perform landscape analyses.

National Park Service

Law Enforcement Ranger

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Bettles, Alaska

Sept 2003 – Sept 2009

Worked with a team of Rangers to monitor and protect Park resources. Led wilderness patrols to enforce state and Federal regulations, provide for visitor safety, and maintain wilderness character.

- Carried out various resource projects (field surveys for landbirds and their habitat, invasive plants, and archeological sites/artifacts; mark recapture surveys for small mammals; aerial surveys for moose and Dall sheep; and impact monitoring of high use sites)
- Collaborated with non-governmental organizations, tribal governments, industry, and state, local, and federal agencies to implement conservation and education projects within the framework of policies and regulations
- Administered the Commercial Operator Permit program, managed ~50 operators and maintained updated database of approved operators
- Scoped and executed full outfitting of new Ranger Station and NPS office; received \$1000 Star Award for successful completion under challenging time constraints

Visitor Use Assistant (Office Manager)

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Bettles, Alaska

May 2001 – Sept 2003

Provided office management and visitor services support for the Bettles Ranger Station.

- Responded to in-person, phone, mail, and e-mail inquiries regarding trip-planning and regulations, approved guides and commercial operators, and backcountry safety.
- Responsible for tracking and monitoring Ranger patrols and small aircraft flight plans.
- Developed new database to track operations expenditures for 10 employees and 12 accounts including aviation, regional logistics, and rescue operations, totaling over \$1 million annually.

Biological Science Technician (Fire Effects)

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, California

June-Sept 2001

Collected forest and fuel loading data to study the effect of fire on forest ecology.

- Completed surveys of overstory trees, seedling trees, dead and downed fuels, the brush and herbaceous layer, and brush density. Identified species using dichotomous keys.
- Investigated fire mortality of large Sugar Pine (*Pinus lambertina*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and tested a mortality mitigation technique.

Biological Science Technician

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, Alaska

April-August 2000

- Identified and inventoried vascular and non-vascular plants along the Chilkoot Trail. Collected and prepared specimens for herbarium.
- Managed bear-human conflicts in the Dyea campground through the use of approved bear hazing techniques and educational outreach.

EDUCATION

M.S. Dec 2013, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska, GPA 4.0/4.0

Major: Wildlife Biology & Conservation

Thesis: Distribution, habitat associations, and abundance of Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), an uncommon species of concern in the Brooks Range, Alaska.

B.A. June 1998, Colby College, Maine, GPA 3.0 /4.0

Double Major: Biology with Environmental Concentration & Environmental Policy

Senior Project: Land use patterns in relation to lake water quality in the Messalonskee Lake Watershed.

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Craig, H. R., S. J. Kendall, **T. C. Wild**, and A. N. Powell. (in prep) Dispersal and survival of a polygynandrous passerine.

Wild, T.C., S. J. Kendall, N. Guldager, and A. N. Powell. 2014. Breeding habitat associations and predicted distribution of an obligate tundra-breeding bird, Smith's Longspur. *The Condor* vol 117, 15 pages. Available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1650/CONDOR-14-77.1>

Wild, T.C. 2013 Distribution, habitat associations, and abundance of Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*), an uncommon species of concern in the Brooks Range, Alaska. M.S. thesis, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska. Available online at <https://scholarworks.alaska.edu/handle/11122/4442>

Wild, T., S. Kendall, and A.N. Powell. 2012. How many Smith's Longspur are in Alaska's Brooks Range: estimating breeding density of a polygynadrous species. Alaska Bird Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wild, T., S. Kendall, N. Guldager, and A.N. Powell. 2011. Breeding Smith's Longspur habitat associations and predicted distribution in the Brooks Range, Alaska. Joint Meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society, Kearney, Nebraska

Wild, T. L., S. Kendall, F. Huettmann, C. Villa, and A. N. Powell. 2009. Smith's Longspur density and distribution in Alaska's Brooks Range. Poster, 16th Wildlife Society Conference, Monterey, California.

McMillan, T., S. Kendall, F. Huettmann, C. Villa and A. N. Powell. 2009. Smith's Longspur density and distribution in the Brooks Range, Alaska. 79th Cooper's Ornithological Society Meeting, Tucson, Arizona.

McMillan, T. 2009. Ecology of Smith's Longspur in the Brooks Range, Alaska. Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks, Alaska.

McMillan, T., F. Huettmann, and A. N Powell. 2008. Modeling Smith's longspur distribution in Alaska's Brooks Range. 13th Alaska Bird Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska.

REFERENCES

Abby Powell, PhD, Research Associate Professor
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