

Evan K. M. Griffis

517-897-8967 · egriffisphoto@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Michigan State University

May 2023

- Major in Fisheries and Wildlife, Wildlife Biology Concentration
- Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
- Honors College
- Cumulative GPA of 4.0
- GRE overall score: 318

Relevant coursework:

FW419: Introduction to R Coding

FW891: Advanced Topics in R Coding (Graduate-level)

FW419: Applications of GIS in Natural Resources

NSC490: Ecology and Environmental Studies in Costa Rica

FW840: Landscape Ecology (Graduate-level)

FW490: Independent Study

- Analyzed the effects of weather variables on migrant songbird arrival to stopover sites using Burke Lake Banding Station data and R statistical software.

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Avian ecology, conservation of global bird diversity, and ecological modeling and statistics. In addition: bird-habitat relationships, aeroecology, forest ecology, and management of non-game bird and wildlife populations.

EXPERIENCE

Merlin and eBird Project Assistant

November 2023 - Present

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY

Assisted in various outreach and data management tasks to assist in the development of automated bird identification and improve user experiences with eBird and Merlin.

- Analyzed plumages of 950 species of birds to be added to the Merlin Bird ID app.
- Provided user support by answering questions through the online help desk.
- Updated species account webpages by selecting high quality photos and processing in Photoshop.
- Annotated photos and sound recordings to be used in bird identification machine learning.
- Communicated with eBird reviewers from around the world to recognize their work and write eBird Spotlight articles.

Supervisor: Alli Smith

Lead Bird Bander

September 2023 – November 2023

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, South Wellfleet, MA

Banded migratory landbirds and supervised operations at two banding stations: one in Wellfleet and another remote station on Monomoy Island.

- Extracted and banded >2,000 landbirds.
- Managed station Instagram page with >2,800 followers by posting daily updates.
- Spent three straight weeks living and working on a remote island with one coworker.
- Practiced effective communication with coworkers to coordinate banding activities.

Supervisor: James Junda

International Bird Banding Training Program Leader

August 2023 – September 2023

Michigan State Bird Observatory, Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, Bath, MI

Co-led a week-long avian field techniques training program for MSU colleagues from Jordan and Georgia.

- Practiced effective communication skills to train colleagues whose first language is not English.
- Demonstrated field techniques on the capture, banding, handling, and sample collection of landbirds and shorebirds.
- Introduced participants to hands-on training in each of the above techniques.
- Practiced effective teamwork with one other project leader and leadership team.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Mountain Meadow Bird Monitoring Technician

May 2023 – August 2023

Point Blue Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA

Monitored songbirds breeding in mountain meadows while serving as lead bander for a MAPS banding station.

- Conducted daily spot mapping and nest searching for six songbird species (willow flycatcher, Wilson's warbler, MacGillivray's warbler, warbling vireo, Lincoln's sparrow, song sparrow) and found the most nests of the crew with 36 nests.
- Led banding at a MAPS station every 10 days and banded 80 birds.
- Conducted nest site vegetation surveys.
- Practiced accurate data entry to computer databases.

Supervisor: Brent Campos, PhD

Birding Trail Developer

November 2022 – April 2023

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Marquette, MI

Contracted by MDNR to create the Au Train Wildlife Area Birding Trail on public land in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, complete with driving stops and interpretive materials.

- Conducted site visit and used satellite imagery to design route and mapped route using ArcGIS.
- Wrote interpretive information to be used on kiosk and brochure.
- Used GIMP and Canva graphic design software to create a logo and custom interpretive brochure and signage.

Supervisor: Brian Roell

Songbird Bander

August 2022 – October 2022

Burke Lake Banding Station, Bath, MI

Returned as lead songbird bander at a high-volume station in my fourth season at Burke Lake while a full-time student at Michigan State University.

- Banded >70 species of birds captured in mist nets with USGS metal bands (>2,800).
- Trained interns the body-first extraction technique and assisted in extracting the most difficultly tangled birds (>100).
- Assisted in regular mist net repair and station maintenance.
- Interacted with the public daily, while teaching visitors about captured birds, current research, and passerine life histories.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Seabird Surveyor

July 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK

Conducted seabird surveys by boat in Kachemak Bay, Alaska, with a crew of two full-time U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

- Identified seabirds and used distance estimation to record abundance.

- Entered data using DLog data collection program.
- Operated 25' Boston Whaler on open water and within harbor in Homer, AK.
- Practiced appropriate safety measures by wearing PFD and reviewing boating safety protocols.
- Assisted with boat cleaning, maintenance, and programming on-board Garmin chart plotter.

Supervisor: Elizabeth Labunski

Bar-tailed Godwit Field Technician

June 23 – July 4, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nome, AK

Collaborated with researchers in Nome to nest search and territory map for bar-tailed godwits.

- Surveyed vast areas of tundra for godwit pairs, patiently observed godwit behavior for extended periods of time, and identified territories of breeding individuals.
- Successfully found our only godwit nest.
- Navigated off-road in difficult conditions due to biting insects and rain.

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Conklin

Boreal-breeding Shorebird Field Technician

June 5 - 23, 2022

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK

Returned to the USFWS Alaska Landbirds Division on Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) in Fairbanks, Alaska to continue research on several boreal-breeding shorebird species.

- Resighted solitary sandpiper and lesser yellowlegs color-banded in the previous year.
- Target-captured, banded, and retrieved geolocators from solitary sandpiper and lesser yellowlegs.
- Took morphological measurements, blood, and feather samples from captured birds.
- Conducted Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey (ALMS) point counts by navigating off-road using GPS, identifying all species seen/heard and estimating distance to each.
- Nest searched for spotted sandpiper and found three nests and took nest measurements.

Supervisor: Callie Gesmundo

Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project Volunteer

March 7-11, 2022

Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project, Hanapepe, HI

Volunteered with a field crew for a week in a remote field camp in the Alaka'i Swamp, where we conducted endangered bird surveys, mist-netting, and nest monitoring.

- Conducted area searches for puaiohi, monitored puaiohi nests and peeped nests with mirror poles.
- Conducted resighting surveys and located color banded birds.
- Assisted in setting up banding stations and mist net arrays.

Supervisor: Tyler Winter

Songbird Bander

August 2021 – October 2021

Burke Lake Banding Station, Bath, MI

Promoted to lead songbird bander in my third season at Burke Lake while maintaining status as full-time student at Michigan State University.

- Banded birds captured in mist nets with USGS metal bands (>2,900).
- Trained interns the body-first extraction technique and assisted in extracting the most difficultly tangled birds (>150).
- Assisted in regular mist net repair and station maintenance,
- Interacted with the public daily, while teaching visitors about captured birds, current research, and passerine life histories.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Boreal-breeding Shorebird Field Technician

April 2021 – July 2021

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK

Performed fieldwork with the USFWS Alaska Landbirds Division near Fairbanks, Alaska on several boreal-breeding shorebird species in initiation of long-term migration tracking study.

- Nest-searched and estimated territories of solitary sandpiper, lesser yellowlegs, spotted sandpiper, and American robin.
- Conducted captures of above species using mist nets, Ottenby walk-in traps, and bow nets.
- Banded 29 shorebirds with metal and color bands and assisted in fitting lesser yellowlegs and solitary sandpiper with Lotek satellite transmitters.
- Took morphological measurements, blood, and feather samples from captured birds.
- Conducted Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey (ALMS) point counts off-road using GPS.
- Contributed to field camp chores and supported high morale among the field crew.

Supervisor: Callie Gesmundo

Trail Builder and Site Maintenance Worker

October 2020 – April 2021

Michigan State Bird Observatory, Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, Bath, MI

Provided upkeep of nearly four miles of trail while providing general site maintenance and improvement for the public and future research endeavors.

- Cleared new trail and maintained existing trail using chainsaw, brush mower, and riding mower.
- Designed and constructed a cross-country ski trail groomer.
- Groomed ski trails multiple times each week using John Deere Gator to tow groomer.
- Posted trail updates to official Corey Marsh Facebook page and answered visitor questions.
- Posted signage, removed fencing, refurbished nest boxes and picnic tables, and contributed to other site maintenance.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Songbird Bander and Mist Net Technician

Aug 2020 – Oct 2020

Burke Lake Banding Station, Bath, MI

Reached status of bander at the station through personal ambition to pursue additional trainings.

- Trained and quickly picked up ability to age and sex captured birds.
- Reached proficiency in using the *Identification Guide to North American Birds* by Peter Pyle.
- Became advanced in mist net extractions, able to handle the most difficulty tangled birds (>800).
- Band birds captured in nets with USGS metal bands (>1,400).
- Assisted in regular mist net repair and station maintenance, including constructing plexiglass surround for banding during a pandemic and repairing boardwalk along the net lanes.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Cavity-Nesting Bird and Marsh Bird Field Technician

June 2020 – Aug 2020

Michigan State Bird Observatory, Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, Bath, MI

Initiated long-term research project on breeding eastern bluebirds, tree swallow, sora, and Virginia rail while developing the property for public outreach.

- Monitored 10 eastern bluebird and tree swallow nest boxes for nesting activity and banded nestlings with USGS metal and color bands.
- Trapped 14 Virginia rail and individually banded three with USGS metal and color bands.
- Performed playback surveys for sora, Virginia rail, and marsh wren.
- Swabbed wood duck for avian influenza virus.
- Navigated waterways by kayak and canoe and used brush mower, ZTR mower, and various power tool to conduct general maintenance and construction.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

Mist Net Intern

Sept 2019 – Oct 2019

Burke Lake Banding Station, Bath, MI

Seasonal internship position which I secured with my passion for birds and birding, learning bird handling techniques while providing public outreach.

- Extracted passerines and near passerines from mist nets (>600 birds).
- Began developing skills to identify, sex, and age passerines and near-passerines.
- Worked with a small crew and maintained high morale while working through variable weather conditions throughout the field season.
- Interacted with the public daily while teaching visitors about birds and banding research.

Supervisor: Dr. Jen Owen

North American Breeding Bird Surveyor

June 2019

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD

Conducted two 24.5-mile breeding bird survey routes in the rural eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

- Recorded all species identified by sight and sound at 50 point count locations per route.
- Navigated dirt roads using a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Supervisor: Keith Pardieck

Intern to Wildlife Biologist

Sept 2018 – June 2019

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Newberry Field Office, MI

Assisted Wildlife Biologist with regular duties while leading development of a local birding trail.

- Designed and implemented local birding trail, complete with kiosk and informational brochures.
- Contributed to planning for regional birding trail.
- Registered deer, bear, and furbearers harvested by the public.
- Became comfortable interacting with the public on a regular basis.
- Conducted ground surveys for deer, woodcock, sharp-tailed grouse, and Kirtland's warbler.
- Aerial surveys for deer and nesting bald eagle from Cessna aircraft.
- Assisted in trapping and radio-collaring wolves and practiced radio telemetry.

Supervisor: Kristie Sitar

PUBLICATIONS

Griffis, E. and H. Campa III. 2023. Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) breeding habitat ecology, home range, and nest site conservation guidelines. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, In Press.

PRESENTATIONS

Griffis, E. 2023. Effects of weather on arrival of migrating landbirds in fall at an inland stopover site in mid-Michigan, USA. Oral Presentation. American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists Joint Conference. London, ON.

Griffis, E., H. Campa III. 2022. History and Habitat Management Needs for Upland Sandpiper Conservation. Oral Presentation. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Spokane, WA.

Griffis, E. 2021. Field Work in Alaska and How to Secure a Seasonal Job as an Undergraduate. MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club. East Lansing, MI.

Griffis, E. 2021. A Summer with the USFWS Studying Boreal-Breeding Shorebirds in Alaska. Capital Area Audubon Society. Virtual format.

Griffis, E. 2021 Careers with Birds (Guest Speaker). Winter Birding Youth 4-H Club, Michigan State University Extension Schoolcraft County. Virtual Format.

Griffis, E., H. Campa III. 2020. Analysis of Upland Sandpiper Breeding Habitat Management. The Wildlife Society (TWS) Annual Conference. Virtual Format.

Owen, J., **E. Griffis**, H. Landwerlen, K. Taylor. 2020. Migratory Bird Virtual Field Day. Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, Bath, MI.

Griffis, E., H. Campa III. 2020. Analysis of Upland Sandpiper Breeding Habitat Management. Michigan State Graduate Student Organization Symposium Poster Session. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Nelson, E., **E. Griffis.** 2019. Developing birding trail with emphasis on the region, physical stops, and potential sponsors. Michigan State University Extension Office, Newberry, MI.

REPORTS AND OUTREACH

Griffis, E. 2023. Au Train Wildlife Area Birding Trail; planning and design of local birding trail including supplemental and educational materials. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Marquette Field Office, Marquette, MI.

Nelson, E., K. Sitar, **E. Griffis.** 2021. Shore to Shore Birding Trail; planning and design of a regional birding trail in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan including supplemental and educational materials. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Newberry Field Office, Newberry, MI.

Griffis, E. 2019. Silver Creek Birding Trail; planning and design of local birding trail including supplemental and educational materials. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Newberry Field Office, Newberry, MI.

Griffis, E. April 13, 2019. Luce County 4H Planting Seeds of Knowledge; graphic design of supplemental bird identification infographics and interactive display board. Luce County Extension Office, Newberry, MI 49868.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Spartan Stadium Peregrine Falcon Nest Box Project

April 2021 – March 2022

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Led design and construction of peregrine falcon nest box to be installed on Spartan Stadium in collaboration with MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club. Sought input from other departments and wildlife professionals and facilitated club member contributions to the project. Oversaw installation of a camera on the nest box, made the live stream public, and participated in media interviews about the project. The live stream saw >170,000 views from users in 28 countries in just one year.

Cornell Young Birders Event

July 2018

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY

Applied and selected to attend esteemed multi-day workshop at Cornell Lab of Ornithology to develop purpose as a birder and ornithologist and refine birding skills. During which, I interacted with peers from around the world, met Cornell Lab faculty, and learned about the various ways I can impact the world of bird conservation and research.

GRANTS

2022 *Spartan Stadium Peregrine Falcon Nest Box Project – Camera Purchase* funded by Associated Students of Michigan State University. Amount: \$1,000. (PI: Engelman, **Griffis**).

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Undergraduate Presentation (\$500)

2023

Effects of weather on arrival of migrating landbirds in fall at an inland stopover site in mid-Michigan, USA. Oral presentation. American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists Joint Conference. London, ON.

Outstanding Student Senior Award, MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

2023

This award is given to one senior each year who exemplifies the role of a Fisheries and Wildlife Student and has made extraordinary contributions to the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

Dean's List

2019-2023

Maintained Dean's List status at Michigan State University through all four years of my undergraduate with a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation

2020

Analysis of Upland Sandpiper Breeding Habitat Management. Poster presentation. Michigan State University Graduate Student Organization Symposium. East Lansing, MI.

STARR Charitable Foundation Scholarship

2019

A prestigious merit and academic-based full-ride scholarship to Michigan State University for four years. This scholarship is awarded to high-achieving high school graduates from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and state of Wyoming based on leadership, extraordinary skills, curiosity to learn and grow, ambition, and good moral character.

RELEVANT FIELD AND ACADEMIC SKILLS

Computer/Software

- R Programming Language and RStudio Environment.
- Microsoft Office Applications.
- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, Canva graphic design.
- ArcGIS
- MiFi (Michigan forest inventory program).

Equipment

- Experience using spotting scope and binoculars for birds and wildlife.
- DSLR photography.
- Extensive experience riding and operating ATVs.
- Proficient in chainsaw, hydraulic log splitter, and various hand and power tool use.
- Can drive a manual-transmission vehicle.
- Proficient in trailer hauling, loading, and operating in reverse.
- Experienced in maneuvering paddled watercraft, including kayak and canoe.
- Skilled in grooming cross-country ski trail.

TRAININGS

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| • Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – <i>Michigan State University</i> | 2022 |
| • Bear Safety Training – <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> | 2021 |
| • Chainsaw safety, operation, and maintenance – <i>MSU Forestry Department</i> | 2021 |
| • Adult CPR/First Aid – <i>American Red Cross Virtual</i> | 2021 |
| • Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct – <i>Michigan State University</i> | 2021 |
| • Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – <i>Michigan State University</i> | 2021 |
| • Passerine and near-passerine sexing and aging – <i>Michigan State Bird Observatory</i> | 2020 |
| • Deer aging by molar wear – <i>MDNR Newberry Field Office</i> | 2019 |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

President

Sept 2021 – December 2022

Michigan State University Birding Club

Fostered enthusiasm for birds and birding by recruiting board members, organizing events, and inviting guest speakers. Placed special emphasis on teaching new members birding skills and a passion for birds.

Wildlife Chair

Jan 2021 – December 2022

Michigan State University Fisheries and Wildlife Club

Contributed to the success of Fisheries and Wildlife Club, a registered student chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS), by organizing events with guest speakers, engaging with club board members, and interacting with members at our weekly meetings.

Secretary

Oct 2020 – April 2021

Michigan State University Birding Club

Worked with fellow board members to resurrect a discontinued club by recruiting new members, developing event ideas, and holding biweekly meetings in a virtual format.