

John T. Veon

Graduate Group in Ecology, University of California, Davis
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Education

University of California, Davis, California

Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology

Fall 2022 - Present

GPA: 4.0

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Master of Science in Biology

December 2021

GPA: 4.0

Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas

Bachelor of Arts, *Distinction*

May 2018

Major: Biology

GPA: 3.5

Minor: Psychology

Relevant Experience

Improving wetland habitat in the Central Valley of California through integrative wetland management Spring 2022 – Present

-Doctoral research that investigates avenues for reducing mosquito production through predator-prey dynamics and hydrological management techniques, as well as analyzing the trophic flow of energy on waterfowl and wetland birds and the overarching benefits to ecosystem goods and services.

Mallard body mass variation during winter in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Fall 2019 – December 2021

-Master's thesis research that investigates the factors that fluctuate the body mass of mallard ducks in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley during the winter. This project worked closely with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and waterfowl hunters within the region to examine body mass trends over time and in relation to climate and landscape variables. Funded by Ducks Unlimited (\$10,000), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$3,500), the 2019 Arkansas Audubon Society Award (\$200), and the 2020 Arkansas Audubon Society Award (\$200).

Canada Goose Band Recovery Data Analyst & Migratory Bird Banding Technician Summer 2021 – December 2021

-Part-time data analyst for the summer of 2021 to evaluate 17 years of hunter-harvested nonmigratory Canada goose band recovery data. This research will help the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) understand more about nonmigratory Canada goose distribution among Arkansas and other states in the Mississippi Flyway. I also met AGFC staff in various locations throughout central and east Arkansas to band 850+ Canada Geese.

Burrow commensalism in the burrows of nine-banded armadillos Summer 2020 – Summer 2021

-Camera trapping study analyzing the diversity and ecosystem interactions caused by the development and placement of nine-banded armadillo burrows in Arkansas.

Toxoplasma prevalence and transmission rates in waterfowl Fall 2020

-Collaborator in a research project where I collected duck hearts from a diverse array of waterfowl species to be analyzed for toxoplasma parasites by Dr. Rick Gerhold in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee.

Evaluating northern bobwhite occupancy patterns on state and ecoregion levels Spring 2020 – Fall 2020

-Assisted in preparation of bobwhite call survey data from the AGFC in ArcGIS Pro 2.6 to evaluate variables associated with bobwhite occupancy based on state and ecoregion levels. This study is designed to improve bobwhite habitat management within the state of Arkansas.

Loggerhead Shrike Occupancy Research Technician Summer 2020

-Served as a part-time technician to collect point count information for loggerhead shrikes (along with other birds of prey) in northwest Arkansas.

Coronavirus surveillance of hunter-harvested ducks in the Arkansas Delta Fall 2019

-Assisted the Dr. Forbes Lab from the University of Arkansas in collecting fecal samples to detect avian coronaviruses from hunter harvested ducks at duck hunting clubs, duck processing businesses, and public land boat ramps.

Disturbance of wintering waterfowl by traffic noise Fall 2016

-Undergraduate research investigating the effects of traffic noise pollution on wintering waterfowl based on food availability and vegetative cover in southwest and central Arkansas. Funded by the Arkansas Audubon Society Award (\$400), the Hendrix College Moseley Research Award (\$150), and the Hendrix College Odyssey Award (\$745).

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Management Internship Summer 2016

-Assisted in finding the northern most mating pair of swallow-tailed kites in the US; aided in chronic wasting disease research of the deer family; conducted bear, quail, and alligator population surveys; participated in the trapping and banding of waterfowl and dove; participated in quail habitat restoration planning and wetland management; assisted in feral hog eradication; and aided in nuisance bear and alligator relocation.

Supervisory Experience

Daniel Baker from Davis, CA Spring 2022 - Present

-Served as a technician collecting macroinvertebrate and moist soil seed samples for doctoral research studying integrative wetland management.

Echo Gretty-Caton from Davis, CA Spring-Fall 2022

-Served as a technician collecting and sorting macroinvertebrate samples for doctoral research studying integrative wetland management.

Ilyssa Boco from Davis, CA Spring-Fall 2022

-Served as a technician collecting and sorting macroinvertebrate samples for doctoral research studying integrative wetland management.

Jacob Hewitt from Madison, WI Fall-Winter 2019 – 2020 and Fall-Winter 2020 – 2021

-Served as a technician collecting mallard body mass measurements during both field seasons of my master's thesis research: Mallard body mass variation during winter in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Teaching Experiences

Human Physiology Teaching Assistant (University of Arkansas) Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

-Instructor position teaching an upper-level biology course to undergraduates.

Principles of Biology Teaching Assistant (University of Arkansas) Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

-Instructor position teaching an introductory biology course to undergraduates.

Publications

Journal Articles:

-DeGregorio, B., A., **J. T. Veon**, and A. Massey. 2022. Wildlife associates of nine-banded armadillo burrows. *Ecology and Evolution* 12(5):e8858.

-**Veon, J. T.** 2021. Body mass and body condition variation of mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) within and among winters within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (Publication No. 28868229) [Master's Thesis, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville]. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/13185b8f20cac10d7e5597b2997dadd6/1.pdf?cbl=18750&diss=y&pq-origsite=scholar>

-DeGregorio, B., C. Gale, E. Lassiter, A. Massey, C. Roberts, and **J. T. Veon**. 2021. Nine-banded armadillo (*Dasyurus novemcinctus*) are influenced by human activity. *Ecology and Evolution* 11(22):15874-15881.

-Lassiter, E. V., M. Asher, G. Christie, C. Gale, A. Massey, C. Massery, C. R. Middaugh, **J. T. Veon**, and B. A. DeGregorio. 2021. Evaluating northern bobwhite occupancy patterns on state and ecoregion levels: Does scale matter? *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 12(2):1-11.

-**Veon, J. T.**, E. V. Lassiter, E. Johansson, L. McTigue, A. Massey, R. Gibson, M. Shaw, C. Gale, and DeGregorio, B. A. Does the Human Shield Hypothesis explain patterns of Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) occupancy, abundance, and activity? *In review.*

-**Veon, J. T.**, and M. R. McClung. Disturbance of wintering waterfowl by traffic noise. *In review.*

-**Veon, J. T.**, D. G. Krementz, L. W. Naylor, and B. A. DeGregorio. Effects of landscape composition on winter mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) body condition in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas. *In review.*

-**Veon, J. T.**, B. A. DeGregorio, L. W. Naylor, K. J. Reinecke, B. C. Dabbert, D. W. Demarest, K. M. Hartke, and D. G. Krementz. Winter mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) body mass trends from 1979-2021 in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. *Manuscript written in full/in submission process.*

-Szafranski, N., C. Bahnson, A. Blake-Bradshaw, M. Carstensen, B. Cohen, J. Kelly, D. Osborne, C. Su, **J. Veon**, and R. Gerhold. Ecology and epidemiology of toxoplasma in waterfowl in the US. *Manuscript in prep.*

-**Veon, J. T.**, D. G. Krementz, L. W. Naylor, and B. A. DeGregorio. Survival of temperate-breeding Canada geese in Arkansas. *Manuscript in prep.*

Popular Articles:

- Veon, J. T.**, and DeGregorio, B. A. 2021. Ducks Unlimited International Science Report: Mallard Body Mass Variation Within and Among Winters in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Ducks Unlimited*.
- Veon, J. T.**, and DeGregorio, B. A. 2021. Ducks Unlimited Science Spotlight: Mallard Body Mass Variation Within and Among Winters in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Ducks Unlimited*.
- Veon, J. T.**, and James, J. D. “Survival of the Fattest: Maintaining body mass is crucial to waterfowl during the cold winter months.” *Ducks Unlimited*, vol. 85, no. 1, Jan. 2021, pp. 22-23.

Presentations

- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Naylor, L.W., Reinecke, K.J., Dabbert, B.C., Demrest, D.W., and Hartke, K.M., and Krementz, D.G.** Body mass dynamics in wintering mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Waterfowl Symposium, 1st meeting, Memphis, TN, October 2022.
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Naylor, L.W., Reinecke, K.J., Dabbert, B.C., and Krementz, D.G.** Body mass and body condition variation of mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) within and among winters within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Master’s Thesis Defense, University of Arkansas. November 2021.
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Naylor, L.W., Reinecke, K.J., Dabbert, B.C., and Krementz, D.G.** Overwintering mallard body mass trends in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas and Mississippi from 1979-2021. The Wildlife Society annual meeting, 28th meeting, Virtual Conference, November 2021. (Poster)
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Krementz, D.G., and Naylor, L.W.** Wintering mallard body mass trends from 1979 - 2021 in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit annual meeting, Virtual Conference, September 2021.
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Krementz, D.G., and Naylor, L.W.** Survival of the Fattest? Overwintering mallard body mass trends in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas from 1979 – 2021. The Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Virtual Conference, March 2021.
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., Krementz, D.G., and Naylor, L.W.** Mallard body condition and duck energy days: are they related? The Wildlife Society annual meeting, 27th meeting, Virtual Conference, September 2020. (Poster)
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., and Krementz, D.G.** Mallard body condition and duck energy days: are they related? The Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Little Rock, AR, March 2020.
- Veon, J.T., DeGregorio, B.A., and Krementz, D.G.** Mallard body mass variation during winter in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas. USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit annual meeting, Little Rock, AR, December 2019.
- Veon, J.T. and McClung, M.R.** Disturbance of wintering waterfowl by traffic noise. The Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Little Rock, AR, March 2019.
- Veon, J.T. and McClung, M.R.** Disturbance of wintering waterfowl by traffic noise. Ecological Society of America, 102nd meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 2018. (Poster)
- Veon, J.T. and McClung, M.R.** Disturbance of wintering waterfowl by traffic noise. Arkansas Academy of Sciences, 107th meeting, Jonesboro, AR, April 2018.

Supporting Author Presentations:

- M. Shaw, Veon, J. T., E. V. Lassiter, E. Johansson, L. McTigue, A. Massey, R. Gibson, and DeGregorio, B. A.** Influence of human development and predators on patterns of Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) occupancy, abundance, and activity? The Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting, Little Rock, AR, March 2022..
- DeGregorio, B.A., Lassiter, E.V., Gale, C.W., Veon, J., Massey, A., Christie, G., Asher, M., Middaugh, C., and Massery, C.** 2021. Northern bobwhite occupancy patterns on multiple spatial scales in Arkansas. National Bobwhite Technical Committee Annual Meeting, Bentonville, AR, August 2021.
- Christie, G., Asher, M., Lassiter, E., Massey, A., Massery, C., Middaugh, C., Veon, J., and DeGregorio, B.** Relative percentage of early successional habitat is the strongest predictor of bobwhite occupancy across space and time in the state of Arkansas. National American Ornithological Conference, 7th meeting, Virtual Conference, August 2020.

Media Appearances

Podcasts

- Veon, J.T.** Interview. “Are Arkansas Mallards Fatter Today Than 40 Years Ago?” Ducks Unlimited Podcast. 27Oct2021.

Film

- Veon, J.T.** RNT-V. Interview. “Disturbance of Wintering Waterfowl to Traffic Noise”. Sportsman Channel. *To air in 2022-2023.*
- Veon, J.T.** RNT-V. Interview. “The Trilogy Farm”. Sportsman Channel. 4October2021.

Awards and Honors

Delta Waterfowl Spring Breeding Ecology Course Fellow (in Prairie Pothole Region) (*will attend when Covid permits*)

Harry & Jo Leggett Chancellor's Fellowship 2019 – 2021

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Conservation Scholarship 2014-2018 & 2019 – 2021

Hendrix College Football Lettermen 2014-2018

Hendrix Academic Scholarship 2014-2018

Hendrix Odyssey Distinction Award 2014-2018

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholar 2014-2018

Southern Athletic Association Academic All-Conference 2015, 2016, 2017

Delta Waterfowl Scholarship 2014

Ducks Unlimited and AGFC Greenwing Conservation Camp Camper of The Year Award 2012

Leadership

University of Arkansas Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) 2019 – 2021

-General Assembly Member

Note: I was nominated twice (academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021) by peers to serve as BGSA Treasurer. However, based on time constraints and involvement in other projects, I deemed it necessary to focus on my research.

Hendrix College Apartment Hall Council 2017-2018

-Elected Apartment Hall Council Secretary.

Hendrix College Volunteer Action Committee (VAC) Public Spaces Representative 2017-2018

-Developed and assisted with volunteer projects between the Hendrix College campus and the Conway community.

Varsity NCAA Division 3 Football 2014-2018

-2015 SAA Conference Champions.

Hendrix College Student Senate 2016-2017

-Elected Junior Class Senator.

-Executive member of the Student Funds Financial Committee.

Staff Member/ Counselor of Ridin' Dirty with Science Program Summer 2015

-Summer program offered by Hendrix College to promote science education to under-resourced children in Arkansas.

Hendrix College Martin Hall Council 2014-2016

- General Assembly Member – 2014-2015

- Elected Martin Hall Secretary by dorm residents – 2015-2016

Volunteer Work

USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Social Media Fall 2019-December 2021

-Developed and communicated ongoing research and results, events, and student accomplishments to the public on the USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Instagram page.

Guest Lecturer on "Late Night with Jim Ronquest" Fall 2021

-Participated in a weekly Instagram Live session with Co-Host of RNT-V, Jim Ronquest, where we educated the public on a diverse array of waterfowl science topics that can improve both habitat and hunting.

Undergraduate Student Research Mentor Fall 2019-Fall 2020

-Mentored undergraduate student, Hector Santillan, in developing a study analyzing the physiological phenomena behind nervous tissue regeneration in axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*).

Mississippi Flyway Wing-Bee Volunteer

-Volunteered to determine the age and sex of wings from harvested waterfowl, dove, and woodcock across the Mississippi Flyway (also known as the Migratory Birds Parts Collection Survey).

Ducks Unlimited Varsity Youth Camp Research Instructor Winter 2019

-Instructed high school aged students on how to conduct scientific research ethically and effectively. Students also were given hands on field data collection experience through my master's project with their own harvested mallards.

Canada Goose Banding Trainee Summer 2019

-Assisted Arkansas Waterfowl Program Coordinator, Luke Naylor, and AGFC staff in banding, sexing, and aging temperate-breeding Canada geese within central and eastern Arkansas.

Central Arkansas Raptor Rehabilitation Center Spring 2018

-Developed a volunteer project in which students assisted in cleaning the bird habitats at a rehabilitation facility for wild raptors.

Trail & Parking Lot Clean-up at Bell Slough WMA (VAC at Hendrix College) Fall 2017

-Designed and carried out a project to pick up litter around the Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area nature trails and parking lots.

Co-Leader for Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip Fall 2016

-Helped lead a group of students to the wildlife refuge to locate and learn about various migratory bird species.

NCAA D3 SAA Baseball Playoffs Cancer Research Fundraiser Spring 2016

-Helped park cars and sell refreshments where part of the proceeds went to cancer research.

Bethlehem House of Conway Fall 2014

-Served dinner to residents of the shelter and the homeless of Conway, AR.

Skills

Computer: Proficiency in IBM SPSS, MS Office, R Computing Software, ArcGIS Pro, Google Earth Engine, Timelapse2 Image Software and Program MARK

Certifications: Boating Education, Hunter Education, CPR and First Aid, and Defensive Driving

Memberships

The American Museum of Fly Fishing, Trout Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Ecological Society of America, Beta Beta Beta, Society of Wetland Scientists, and The Wildlife Society

References

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