

Biological Review Groups

10 July 2017

Team lead listed first for each group.

Sherman's Fox Squirrel

Elina Garrison has a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. She has worked as a biologist in FWC's Terrestrial Mammal Research Subsection since 2004. Ms. Garrison has experience with a variety of Florida mammals, including black bears, white-tailed deer, and fox squirrels, and she has assisted with fox squirrel risk assessments and compiling statewide range maps. She was the FWC lead on the 2010 Sherman's fox squirrel and Big Cypress fox squirrel biological status review and was a team member of both subspecies' action plans.

Robert McCleery received a B.S. in Natural Resource management from Cornell University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Florida in the department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. His research focuses on mammal conservation. Dr. McCleery has published 77 peer-reviewed manuscript and book chapters, 15 of which are focused on the ecology and conservation of fox squirrels in the southeastern United States.

Mike Conner received his PhD from Mississippi State University in 1995. He has held a research position at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center since June of 1997. He currently holds the rank of Scientist. Dr. Conner's research focuses on the process of predation, behavioral response of prey to predation risk, habitat selection, and the influence of forest management activities on animal behaviors and populations. He works with a variety of species and has extensive experience working with fox squirrels.

Holly Ober has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Science and Forest Science from Oregon State University. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. Dr. Ober has been engaged in wildlife research for over 20 years, with the past 10 focused primarily on imperiled species in Florida.

Andrew Edelman is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of West Georgia. He has over 15 years of research experience studying the conservation and ecology of wild mammals with a specific focus on tree squirrels, skunks, bats, and other small carnivores and rodents. Dr. Edelman has coauthored over 20 peer-reviewed articles and 100 presentations on his research. Recently, he has collaborated on grant-funded research with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He holds a B.S. in biology from Willamette University, an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of New Mexico. He is also a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, an associate editor for the *Southeastern Naturalist* journal, and secretary for the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Homosassa Shrew

Chris Winchester is a Research Associate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has a B.A. in Biological Sciences from the University of Delaware (1998) and an M.S. from the University of Georgia in Wildlife Ecology (2007). He has worked for FWC since 2012 and has conducted research on eastern chipmunk and mink populations in Florida. Responsibilities include designing and implementing research and managing project budgets. He has over 10 years of experience conducting wildlife research.

John C. Kilgo has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Georgia, Athens. Since 1997 he has been employed as a Research Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station. He also is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and an adjunct faculty member at Clemson University, the University of Georgia, and North Carolina State University. His work has focused on various wildlife species, including songbirds, bats, herps, small mammals, deer, and wild turkeys.

Daniel Pearson has a M.S. in Zoology from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dan has worked as a biologist with the Florida Park Service for >25 years and has conducted surveys for various wildlife species including the Homosassa Shrew.

Osprey of Monroe County

Tim A. Dellinger received his M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University. Dellinger has over 13 years of experience with research and monitoring projects on imperiled species in Florida, including raptors, wading birds, and cranes. He has spent 5 years working with whooping cranes in Florida, and his primary research interest is in the ecology and conservation of imperiled avian species. Dellinger served as a member of the Species Action Plan team for the osprey of Monroe County.

Rebecca Kimball received a PhD from the University of New Mexico, where her dissertation focused on sexual selection in House Sparrows. After completing postdoctoral work at both the University of New Mexico and The Ohio State University, she became a faculty member at the University of Florida in 2001, where she is now a Professor in the Department of Biology and an Affiliate Associate Professor with the Florida Museum of Natural History. She has published over 80 scientific papers in the areas of evolutionary biology and behavioral ecology. One of her specific areas of interest is avian phylogenetics, where she has focused on reconstructing the evolutionary history among all birds as well as in specific orders. She is currently a collaborator on FWC's investigation into the subspecies designations of seaside sparrows on Florida's gulf coast.

Michael A. McMillian received his M.S. degree in Biological Sciences from the University of West Florida and is currently working as an Environmental Specialist for Highlands County Natural Resources. McMillian's expertise is with birds of prey, especially ospreys of Florida. He has focused on the nesting ospreys of Lake Istokpoga since 1989, the ospreys of Lake Arbuckle since 1998, and the ospreys of Blue Cypress Lake from 2004-2008.

Karl E. Miller received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida and is currently the Upland Nongame Bird Leader for FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Miller has more than 15 years experience implementing research and monitoring projects for imperiled birds and mammals in Florida, with more than 45 articles or chapters published in scientific journals or popular magazines. Miller's expertise is focused on the population ecology and habitat requirements of raptors, woodpeckers, and songbirds. Karl served as team lead for the 2010 Biological Review Group for the osprey of Monroe County.

Lori Oberhofer has worked as a wildlife biologist with the South Florida Natural Resources Center at Everglades National Park for the past 16 years and leads the park's long-term wildlife

inventory and monitoring projects. With a graduate degree from the University of Montana, Oberhofer's focus and expertise includes restoration ecology, invasive species management, and conservation biology of wading birds, Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows, Bald Eagles and Ospreys.

Harlequin Darter

John Knight II received his B.S. in Fisheries from the University of Georgia and Master's degree from Auburn University. John worked for the University of Georgia, Institute of Ecology and Georgia Museum of Natural History, where he primarily conducted research and monitoring on Federally Endangered and Threatened fish species. In 2005 he accepted a position with FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). For the past twelve years, he has worked primarily on developing monitoring strategies/techniques to effectively characterize fish communities from streams and rivers in Florida. He is currently the Principal Investigator on multiple threatened and endangered species projects (both state and federally listed). These projects include research on Gulf Sturgeon, Crystal Darters, and Saltmarsh Topminnows. Additional duties while working for FWRI include biological comments on the effects of development on state and federally listed species, consultation for scientific permit applications, assist USFWS with sampling for federally listed fish and mussel species, and work on numerous interagency technical committees and partnerships within the state of Florida. John served on the original Biological Review Group for the Harlequin Darter.

Howard Jelks has diverse experience from wetland plants, aquatic invertebrates, fish, and wading birds. He has studied these organisms from the estuaries of Apalachicola Bay, freshwater marshes of the Everglades, and streams of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Although he specializes in fishes, he classifies himself as a general naturalist/ecologist. How the dynamic environment structures biotic communities is his broad interest. Imperiled freshwater fishes are his specialty, but nonindigenous and marine taxa are also studied. For the past 22 years, he has been a leader of Okaloosa darter monitoring and recovery planning at Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida. He has developed skills in sampling design, database development, geographical information system and statistical analyses. Howard currently is on the graduate committee of Kate Harriger who is researching Harlequin Darters in the Escambia River system. Howard served on the original Biological Review Group for the Harlequin Darter.

Bill Tate is the lead biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service office at Eglin Air Force Base. This office is responsible for supporting a variety of natural resource conservation programs on the 485,000 acre Eglin reservation. A fish biologist by training, Bill has been primarily focused on protecting the Okaloosa darter, a darter species managed successfully enough for the last two decades that it qualified for down-listing from federally endangered to threatened in 2011. Having spent the more than 15 years as a fishery biologist in Florida, his expertise extends to all North Florida darters and many other benthic (therefore cryptic) freshwater species and habitats. Bill served on the original Biological Review Group for the Harlequin Darter.