



Newsworthy Stuff

Lisa attended a sea level rise pilot project recon meeting at **TIMU**, working with **Lynda Bell** (WRD, OCRB, SLR Specialist) and **Shauna Allen** (**TIMU**, Chief of Resource Stewardship and Partnerships).

Jake will be collaborating with Nicole Rankin (Fish and Wildlife Service) at Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge to resurvey one of their RSET sites to determine how reproducible the coordinate and elevation data is using a new standard operating procedure (SOP.) The new SOP will provide instructions for the use of survey-grade GPS equipment to determine the absolute location (latitude, longitude, and elevation) of salt marsh relative surface elevation tables. The results of this partnership will ultimately lead to more accurate methods for SECN salt marsh monitoring.

Brian visited **CONG** this month and met with **Liz Struhar** and **Tracy Stakely** to discuss the recommissioning of the water-quality monitoring site on Cedar Creek.



PHOTO BY EMILY MILBAUER

A green sea turtle at [Cape Lookout National Seashore](#).

What does *THAT* do?



In this picture, the network's wildlife biologist, Briana, is filling out a worksheet for variable point counts for bird populations. This information verifies that our primary monitoring technique—the use of automated recording devices—effectively detects all the species present. The first two years of data suggest that ARDs detect more species than point counts. This is the last year point counts will be collected.

Field Work

Completed in April

- Automated recording devices were deployed at **CALO**. The ARDs collect recordings for landbird and vocal anuran monitoring protocols.
- Variable point counts were conducted at **CUIS**, **HOBE**, **KEMO**, **FOSU**, and **CALO**.
- The coastal team collected salt marsh data at **CANA** and **TIMU**.
- Lisa** and **Jason** conducted shoreline surveys at **CAHA** (Bodie, North Hatteras, South Hatteras, and Ocracoke).

Upcoming In May

- Sarah** and **Emily** will be conducting vegetation monitoring at **CUIS** in early May and **HOBE** in late May–early June.
- Pete** will be collecting water-quality data in Georgia and Florida parks May 2–5.

For more detailed information on I&M field schedules, see the [field operations calendar](#) on our SharePoint site (steering committee and superintendents only).

Employee Spotlight



This month's spotlight is on Shannon Curry. Shannon is a fourth year PhD candidate in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. Since August 2014, Shannon has been a graduate assistant for the network, where she does technical editing and science communication.

Shannon's dissertation research investigates human-wild bird interactions, including how human-altered habitats impact wildlife disease. Specifically, Shannon assesses public attitudes toward urban wild birds and examines effects of urban habitat use and anthropogenic food supplementation on stress, immune function, and pathogen prevalence of white ibis in South Florida.

Shannon has always been fascinated by wildlife and nature but traveled a circuitous route toward wildlife research. Shannon's educational background encompasses English literature and archaeology/anthropology, and she spent several years as a National Park Service interpretive ranger across the Southwest and in Florida. Shannon hopes to ultimately use wildlife research and creative writing to communicate conservation issues to the public and improve human-wildlife relationships. Shannon's other interests and pursuits include rabbits, classic films, reading, writing, and trying to learn other languages.

Communications

The following reports have been completed and sent to NRPM for report numbers. Follow us on Twitter for announcements when these are posted on IRMA.

Kurimo-Beechuk, E. A., and M.W. Byrne. 2016. Landbird community monitoring at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area: 2011 data summary.

Kurimo-Beechuk, E. A., and M.W. Byrne. 2016. Landbird community monitoring at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park: 2011 data summary.

Kurimo-Beechuk, E. A., and M.W. Byrne. 2016. Landbird community monitoring at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park: 2011 data summary.

Kurimo-Beechuk, E. A., and M.W. Byrne. 2016. Landbird community monitoring at Ocmulgee National Monument: 2012 data summary.

Heath, S. C., and M. W. Byrne. 2016. Vegetation community monitoring at Congaree National Park: 2014 data summary.



Citizen Science: A juvenile box turtle supervises point-count bird surveys at **Horseshoe Bend National Military Park**.

In May, we'll be working on 2014 landbird community monitoring reports, as well as 2014 vegetation monitoring reports. We'll also be moving Natural Resource Condition Assessment reports forward for both Cape Lookout National Seashore and Congaree National Park.

On May 4th, **Wendy** will be attending training for “Audience Engagement Through Park-Produced Media” to enrich her education and outreach skills. The training is presented by the Interpretive Development Program at Harper’s Ferry Center.

From the Program Manager



Although it is still spring, the heat is definitely on in Athens, and we have a couple of big pushes for the summer. This month, in addition to the ongoing monitoring work mentioned in this issue, I wanted to call attention to a couple of bigger efforts that fall outside of the normal routine work that we report. First, we will be on-boarding a new employee next month. Eric Starkey will take over as aquatic ecologist in June.

After a few of weeks of mandatory SECN/SER indoctrination, Eric will assist with the implementation of two new protocols which are designed to assess river and stream habitat conditions in SECN parks. Second, after a period of down-time, we will be restarting two continuous water-quality monitoring sites—one in **CONG** and the other in **CAHA**. These sites had were originally decommissioned due to storm damage, and later fell victim to personnel changes that inhibited the continuation of the work—mostly my fault for the delay—but these two sites should be back up and collecting data within the month. On the office-y side of things, we are continuing to work on the Natural Resource Condition Assessment draft documents, and are formulating a plan based on feedback I received from the involved parks. You'll be hearing back from me on this effort soon. As always keep in touch with me and my staff and we will see you in your park soon.

— Brian Gregory

For More Information



A ring-necked snake at **Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park**.

SECN Home Page:
<http://go.nps.gov/secn>

SECN Reports & Publications:
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/SECN/publications.cfm>

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