

Olivia Hess

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Education

B.A. | EARNED MAY 2012 | HIRAM COLLEGE

- Major: Environmental Studies | Minor: Writing
- Related coursework: Ornithology, Field Ornithology, Biology & Conservation Biology, Ecology, Chemistry, Into to GIS & GIS Applications, Statistics, Env. Policy, Env. Sociology, Env. Education, Sem: Climate Change

Research Experience

VOLUNTEER BANDER | RIO MESA CENTER | CISCO, UT | APRIL - JUNE 2016 | SUPERVISOR: CAGAN SEKERCIOGLU

- Trained in banding protocols, aging, sexing, and identifying molt based on the Pyle guide, net extraction, net set up and maintenance, identifying western birds by sight and song, and data entry.

AVIAN RESEARCH ASSISTANT | JAMES H. BARROW FIELD STATION | HIRAM, OH | MAY – AUG, 2009, 2010, 2011 | SUPERVISOR: SARAH MABEY

- Conducted a breeding bird survey of the field station for three summers through spot mapping, tracking birds by sight and song, identifying and recording territories, and observing nesting and feeding behaviors.
- Developed an independent research project examining the correlation between song frequency and habitat quality of Red-eyed Vireos. Identified and mapped territories, designed sampling methods, collected arthropod samples and classified to order.
- Examined the vocal, territorial, and feeding habits of the American Robin for two summers. Located and monitored nests and territories and made detailed vocal and behavioral observations.

FOREST MONITORING RESEARCH ASSISTANT | JAMES H. BARROW FIELD STATION | HIRAM, OH | MAY – SEPT, 2010 | SUPERVISOR: MICHAEL BENEDICT

- Performed vegetation sampling for ongoing forest monitoring research. Set up study plots, collected and identified specimens, measured tree height using an altimeter and canopy cover using a densiometer, created maps and graphs using Excel examining species abundance and richness, canopy cover, and succession.

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY COURSE | VARIOUS RESEARCH STATIONS | GA, MS, TX, LA | MAY 2011

- Three-week course traveling to different habitats in the southeastern United States. Learned to quickly identify new species and song. Observed and described avian diversity, ecology, behavior and conservation.

Professional Experience

ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST | JAMES H. BARROW FIELD STATION | HIRAM, OH | NOV 2009 – MAY 2012

- Provided care and husbandry of endangered waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans, White-winged Wood Ducks, and Madagascar Teal, as well as educational reptiles and amphibians. Assisted in the rehabilitation of songbirds and birds of prey. Maintained displays, habitat enrichment, behavioral monitoring, and record keeping.

Presentations

- *Long-term forest monitoring at the James H. Barrow Field Station, Hiram, Ohio* by Michael Benedict, Matthew Hils, Brittany Blum, Olivia Hess, Jemika Kastee, Timothy Luttermoser, and Regeant Panday, Hiram College presented at the Ohio Natural History Conference, 2011

Leadership & Awards

PRESIDENT | STUDENTS ORGANIZED FOR SUSTAINABILITY, HIRAM COLLEGE

- Organized and moderated a symposium with administration and community members about the future of sustainability at our school. Met with sustainability consultants to determine areas of improvement on campus. Established a sustainability fund to finance initiatives.

2012 LUBRIZOL FOUNDATION AWARD IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, HIRAM COLLEGE

References

SARAH MABEY

Associate Professor and Co-director of Environmental Studies, Hiram College

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MIKE FORD

Lead Bander, Rio Mesa Center

Hermanusmike@gmail.com

27-82-784-9098 (South African, best reached by email)

MICHAEL BENEDICT

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Hiram College

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