

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **Peter J. Blank**

Department of Zoology  
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#### EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. | <i>Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences, Area of Specialization: Ecology</i><br>University of Maryland, College Park, Advisor: Dr. Galen P. Dively<br>Dissertation: Bird community response to Conservation Reserve Program<br>habitat in Maryland | 2010 |
| M.S.  | <i>Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development</i><br>University of Maryland, College Park   | 2002 |
| B.A.  | <i>Earth and Planetary Science</i><br>Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD   | 1995 |
|       | <i>Certificate in Wildlife Ecology and Management</i><br>School for Field Studies, Kenya  | 1992 |
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#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| University of Wisconsin – Madison                        |  |                 |
| <i>Postdoctoral Research Associate</i>                   | Evaluating the impacts of changes in bioenergy crop production on grassland<br>bird populations in southern Wisconsin.   | 04/2012–present |
| Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD            |  |                 |
| <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i>                      | Evaluated the influence of breeding bird phenology on the North American Breeding Bird Survey<br>(BBS) data. Mapped distributions of breeding bird species. Managed spatial and tabular data sets of<br>climate variables (precipitation, temperature, and drought) used for analyses of BBS data.               | 2011–2012       |
| <i>Student Research Assistant</i>                        | Studied changes in predicted occupancy of birds in response to alternative management scenarios<br>on the Patuxent Research Refuge. Created and edited ArcGIS shapefiles of BBS routes. Conducted<br>BBS surveys in Louisiana for a study on the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on breeding<br>birds. | 2008–2010       |
| University of Maryland, College Park                     |  |                 |
| <i>Graduate Assistant and Faculty Research Assistant</i> | Co-PI evaluating the response of breeding and wintering birds to Conservation<br>Reserve Program (CRP) habitat in Maryland and Delaware. Studied early-<br>successional breeding bird response to vegetation and landscape attributes of   | 2004–2010       |

CRP buffers. Assessed the influence of mowing of CRP buffers on wintering bird communities. Analyzed the relationship between northern bobwhite populations and landscape attributes. Presented results at scientific conferences and conservation planning workshops. Field work included bird surveys with point, line, and strip-transects; nest searching and monitoring; and surveys of early-successional vegetation. Trained and supervised 7 field assistants. Courses taken include biostatistics, multivariate statistics, landscape ecology, and GIS and spatial analysis.

*Teaching Assistant* Fall 2007  
 Taught two sections of an ecology and evolution laboratory class.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2003–2004  
*Environmental Consultant*  
 Developed and conducted a survey of breeding forest interior dwelling birds in Maryland. Performed surveys of trees, shrubs, forbs, and wetland plants. Analyzed land cover data in ArcView. Results were used to target conservation and restoration efforts of forest interior habitat in Maryland.

University of Maryland, College Park 2001–2003  
 Chester River Field Research Center, Chestertown, MD  
*Faculty Research Assistant*  
 Managed research on a 230-acre restored grassland. Conducted bird banding, bird surveys, and surveys of grassland vegetation. Conducted intensive research on grasshopper sparrows involving behavioral observations and territory mapping in ArcView. Trained and supervised 8 field assistants.

Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore, MD 1999–2002  
*Environmental Educator and Animal Hospital Assistant*  
 Gave public presentations about zoo animals. Managed databases for the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. Studied avian malaria in African Penguins as part of an international effort to develop an effective vaccine.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall, MD Fall 1996  
*Biology Intern*  
 Conducted weekly waterfowl surveys. Assisted with a mark-recapture study of the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel. Led bird watching tours.

GRANTS

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Travel Grant - \$500 2010  
*Northern bobwhite response to Conservation Reserve Program habitat and landscape attributes in Maryland and Delaware*

College of Life Sciences Travel Grant, University of Maryland - \$300 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010  
*Bird use of conservation buffers bordering rowcrop fields in Maryland*

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$20,000 (co-PI) 2009  
*Bird use of Conservation Reserve Program land in the mid-Atlantic region*

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$18,500 (co-PI) <i>Landscape-Level Effects on Bird Use of CRP Land in the Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	2008
The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Travel Grant - \$500 <i>Mowing of CREP grass buffers in late summer or fall reduces wintering bird habitat</i>	2007
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$100,000 (co-PI) <i>Bird use of herbaceous riparian buffers around crop fields in the Mid-Atlantic</i>	2004
Maryland Department of Natural Resources - \$80,000 (co-PI) <i>Birds use of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program buffer plantings in Maryland</i>	2004
Maryland Department of Natural Resources - \$25,000 (co-PI) <i>A field validation of Maryland's green infrastructure using breeding birds as bio-indicators</i>	2003
AWARDS	
Wildlife Habitat Council's 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Student Scholarship <i>The value of conservation buffers around crop fields in the Mid-Atlantic for birds</i>	2004
Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award, University of Maryland, College Park <i>Mauritius Environmental Resource Management and Industrial Development (MERMAID) workshop</i>	2001

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#### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Blank, P. J.**, G. P. Dively, D. E. Gill, and C. A. Rewa. 2011. Bird community response to filter strips in Maryland. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75:116-125. [PDF](#).

**Blank, P. J.**, J. R. Parks, and G. P. Dively. 2011. Wintering bird response to fall mowing of herbaceous buffers. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123:59-64. [PDF](#).

Weber, T. C., **P. J. Blank**, and A. Sloan. 2008. Field validation of a conservation network on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, USA, using breeding birds as bio-indicators. *Environmental Management* 41:538-550. [PDF](#).

Gill, D. E., **P. Blank**, J. Parks, J. B. Guerard, B. Lohr, E. Schwartzman, J. G. Gruber, G. Dodge, C. A. Rewa, and H. F. Sears. 2006. Plants and birds on a CRP restored grasslands in Maryland. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 34: 944-956. [PDF](#).

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN REVISION OR REVIEW

**Blank, P. J.** *In revision*. Northern bobwhite response to Conservation Reserve Program habitat and landscape attributes. *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

Sauer, J. R., **P. J. Blank**, E. F. Zipkin, J. E. Fallon, and F. W. Fallon. *In revision*. Predicting consequences of refuge management on breeding bird species using multi-species occupancy models. *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

#### TECHNICAL REPORTS

**Blank, P. J.** and G. P. Dively. 2009. Bird use of herbaceous conservation buffers in Maryland. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Wildlife Conservation Center.

**Blank, P. J.** and D. E. Gill. 2006. Bird use of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) buffers bordering rowcrop fields in Maryland. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD. [PDF](#).

Weber, T., **P. Blank**, R. Aviram, J. Lister, and A. Sloan. 2006. A field validation of Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment: using breeding birds as bio-indicators in Eastern Shore forests. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD. [PDF](#).

Weber, T., J. Wolf, **P. Blank**, R. Aviram, and J. Lister. 2004. Restoration targeting in Maryland's Green Infrastructure. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD. [PDF](#).

**Blank, P. J.**, B. Lohr, and D. E. Gill. 2003. Restoration of grassland birds at the Chester River Field Research Center. I. The grasshopper sparrow. Chino Farms, 841 McGinnes Road, Chestertown, MD. [PDF](#).

**Blank, P. J.** 2002. Balancing agriculture and the environment in Mauritius. Graduate Program in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Gill, D. E., **P. J. Blank**, B. Lohr, and G. Dodge. 2002. A report on the ornithological studies at the Chester River Field Research Center, with special focus on the grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Chino Farms, 841 McGinnes Road, Chestertown, MD.

Gill, D. E., **P. J. Blank**, B. Lohr, and G. Dodge. 2001. A report on the grassland birds at the Chester River Field Research Center, with special focus on the grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Chino Farms, 841 McGinnes Road, Chestertown, MD.

#### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Cranfield, M. R., T. K. Graczyk, M. C. Denver, and **P. Blank**. 1999. New approaches for diagnosis of *Entamoeba* infections in captive reptiles. Proceedings of the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians: 17–18.

Denver, M. C., M. R. Cranfield, T. K. Graczyk, **P. J. Blank**, A. Wisnieski, and V. Poole. 1999. A Review of reptilian amebiasis and current research on the diagnosis and treatment of amebiasis at the Baltimore Zoo. Proceedings of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, Joint Conference: 11–15.

#### FACT SHEETS AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2011. Conservation practices support bird communities in Delmarva agricultural landscapes. CEAP Conservation Insight. [PDF](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2010. Bird community response to herbaceous buffers in Maryland. Wildlife Insight. Washington, DC. [PDF](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Wildlife Conservation Center. Grass filter strips provide good breeding and wintering habitat for birds. [PDF](#).

## SELECTED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

"Looking at the big picture: scientific use of North American Breeding Bird Survey data." Sauer, J. R., J. D. Nichols, W. A. Link, **P. J. Blank**, and K. Pardieck. American Ornithologists' Union, Jacksonville, FL, July 2011.

"Northern bobwhite response to Conservation Reserve Program land and landscape attributes in Maryland and Delaware." Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., July 2011.

"Bird use of herbaceous filter strips bordering crop fields in Maryland." Blank, P. J., G. P. Dively, and D. E. Gill. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maryland Natural Resources Conservation Service, Planners Workshop, Annapolis, MD, August 2007.

"Bird use of herbaceous filter strips bordering crop fields in Maryland." Blank, P. J., G. P. Dively, and D. E. Gill. National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, Kansas City, MO, April 2007.

"Bird use of conservation buffers bordering rowcrop fields in Maryland." The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK, September 2006.

"Bird use of CREP buffers around crop fields in Maryland." Blank, P. J. and D. E. Gill. Grassland Restoration Workshop: Aiding Managers in National Capital Region Parks, March 2005.

## CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference – 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010

The Wildlife Society, Maryland/Delaware Chapter, Fall Meeting – 2007, 2009

Patuxent Research Refuge, Maryland – 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences Annual Colloquium, University of Maryland – 2007, 2008, 2009

Bioscience Research & Technology Review Day, University of Maryland – 2001, 2005, 2006, 2008

Maryland Ornithological Society Annual Conference – 2003, 2007

American Ornithologists' Union – 2005

Wildlife Habitat Council's Annual Symposium – 2004

## MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Journal of Wildlife Management, Journal of Field Ornithology, Journal of Soil and Water Conservation

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## COMPUTER PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

ArcGIS Desktop (Geographic Information Systems)

Fragstats (Landscape Analysis)

Google Earth Pro (Mapping)

MS Office Suite

R (data management and statistical analysis)

SAS (data management and statistical analysis)

VORTEX (population viability analysis)