

Peter J. Blank
E-mail: blankpj@gmail.com
Tel: 410-627-5601

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Ecology** 2010
University of Maryland, College Park; Advisor: Dr. Galen P. Dively
Dissertation: *Bird community response to Conservation Reserve Program habitat in Maryland*
- M.S., Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development** 2002
University of Maryland, College Park
- B.A., Earth and Planetary Science** 1995
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- Certificate in Wildlife Ecology and Management** 1992
School for Field Studies, Kenya

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI** 2012–2014
Post-doctoral Research Associate
- *Research Topic: Potential impacts of grassland bioenergy production on bird communities*
 - Designed, directed, and conducted surveys of grassland birds and vegetation in Wisconsin
 - Trained and supervised 2 field assistants in bird, vegetation, and biomass surveys
 - Developed statistical models of grassland bird population response to local habitat and landscape factors, at multiple spatial scales, associated with potential bioenergy grasslands
 - Developed spatially-explicit models in ArcGIS of bird population response to alternative landscape scenarios of bioenergy development in Wisconsin
- U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD** 2011–2012
Post-doctoral Research Fellow
- *Research Topic: Influence of bird phenology on the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)*
 - Mapped distributions of North American breeding bird species and land cover of the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in ArcGIS
 - Managed multiple databases containing spatial and tabular data sets of climate variables
 - Developed statistical models of changing bird detectability during the breeding season
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD** 2004–2010
Ph.D. Student and Faculty Research Assistant
- *Research Topic: Bird response to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) habitat in Maryland*
 - Designed and conducted field research on grassland birds and early-successional vegetation
 - Trained and supervised 7 field assistants in grassland ecology research techniques
 - Field work included bird surveys with point, line, and strip-transects; nest searching and monitoring; and identification of early-successional vegetation
 - Analyzed the influence of vegetation and landscape attributes on grassland bird populations
 - Developed recommendations for managing CRP habitat buffers for grassland birds
- Teaching Assistant*** 2007
- Taught two ecology and evolution laboratory classes
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, MD** 2003–2004
Environmental Consultant
- *Research Topic: A field validation of Maryland's Green Infrastructure Assessment*
 - Developed, coordinated, and conducted a forest interior dwelling bird monitoring program
 - Identified trees, shrubs, forbs, and wetland plants
 - Analyzed land cover data in ArcGIS of forested areas on Maryland's Eastern Shore

- Work resulted in policy changes for conservation and restoration of forest interior habitat

University of Maryland, College Park, MD 2001–2003
Chester River Field Research Center, Chestertown, MD

Project Manager

- *Research Topic: Grassland bird response to habitat restoration*
 - Managed ornithological research on a 230-acre restored grassland
 - Conducted mist-netting, banding, and surveys of grassland birds, and vegetation surveys
 - Led intensive research and analysis on Grasshopper Sparrows, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Maryland, involving behavioral observations and territory mapping
 - Trained and supervised 8 field assistants in grassland ecology research techniques
 - Developed conservation plans for grassland bird species of conservation concern

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 1996

Biology Intern

- Inventory and monitoring of waterfowl, mammals, and forest and wetland vegetation
- Led bird watching tours for school groups and the general public
- Operated White-tailed Deer hunt check station

SERVICE/LEADERSHIP

Conservation Committee Chair, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology	Present
Board Member, Finding Species Inc.	2013–Present
Renewable Energy Working Group Member, The Wildlife Society	2012–Present
Woodlands Committee Chair, Greenbelt Homes Inc., Greenbelt, MD	2007–2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organized tree plantings, invasive species removals, and environmental education programs 	
Volunteer, South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds	2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted with rehabilitation of over 40,000 African Penguins caught in the Treasure oil spill 	

GRANTS

University of Maryland, College of Life Sciences Travel Grants - \$1200 total	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
<i>Bird use of conservation buffers bordering row-crop fields in Maryland</i>	
The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Travel Grant - \$500	2010
<i>Northern bobwhite response to Conservation Reserve Program habitat attributes in Maryland</i>	
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$20,000	2009
<i>Bird use of Conservation Reserve Program land in the mid-Atlantic region</i>	
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$18,500	2008
<i>Landscape-Level Effects on Bird Use of CRP Land in the Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	
The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Student Travel Grant - \$500	2007
<i>Mowing of CREP grass buffers in late summer or fall reduces wintering bird habitat</i>	
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - \$100,000	2004
<i>Bird use of herbaceous riparian buffers around crop fields in the Mid-Atlantic</i>	
Maryland Department of Natural Resources - \$80,000	2004
<i>Bird use of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program buffer plantings in Maryland</i>	

AWARDS

Wildlife Habitat Council's 16 th Annual Symposium Student Scholarship	2004
<i>The value of conservation buffers around crop fields in the Mid-Atlantic for birds</i>	

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award, University of Maryland, College Park 2001
Mauritius Environmental Resource Management and Industrial Development (MERMAID) workshop

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Blank, P.J.**, D.W. Sample, C.L. Williams, and M.G. Tuner. 2014. Bird communities and biomass yields in potential bioenergy grasslands. *PLoS ONE* 9(10):e109989. [PDF](#).
- Mattson, J. B., E. F. Zipkin, B. Gardner, **P. J. Blank**, J. R. Sauer, and J. A. Royle. 2013. Explaining local-scale species distributions: relative contributions of spatial autocorrelation and landscape heterogeneity for an avian assemblage. *PLoS ONE* 8(2):e55097. [PDF](#).
- Blank, P. J.** 2013. Northern bobwhite response to Conservation Reserve Program habitat and landscape attributes. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 77:68-74. [PDF](#). (Highlighted on the Issue Cover)
- Sauer, J. R., **P. J. Blank**, E. F. Zipkin, J. E. Fallon, and F. W. Fallon. 2013. Using multi-species occupancy models in structured decision making on managed lands. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 77:117-127. [PDF](#).
- 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](#).

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 row-crop 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. 2002. 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. 2001. 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.

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, Agricultural Wildlife Conservation Center. 2008. Grass filter strips provide good breeding and wintering habitat for birds. [PDF](#).

SELECTED ORAL PRESENTATIONS (lead author only)

- Blank, P. J.**, D. W. Sample, C. Williams, T. Meehan, and M. G. Turner. 2014. *Invited Presentation*: Alternative scenarios of increased bioenergy production in southern Wisconsin and implications for bird communities. Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Winter Meeting, Rothschild, WI.
- Blank, P. J.**, D. W. Sample, C. Williams, and M. G. Turner. 2013. *Invited Presentation*: Bird communities and biomass yields in potential bioenergy grasslands in Wisconsin. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI.
- Blank, P. J.**, D. W. Sample, C. Williams, and M. G. Turner. Grassland bird communities and biomass yields in potential bioenergy grasslands in Wisconsin, USA. 2013. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, August 2013.
- Blank, P. J.** 2011. *Invited Presentation*: 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.
- Blank, P. J.** 2009. *Invited Presentation*: Bird use of herbaceous buffers bordering row-crop fields in Maryland. Pollinators and Pollination Services in the 2008 Farm Bill, Ag Workshop, Harrington, DE.
- Blank, P. J.**, G. P. Dively, and D. E. Gill. U.S. 2007. *Invited Presentation*: Bird use of herbaceous filter strips bordering crop fields in Maryland. Department of Agriculture, Maryland Natural Resources Conservation Service, Planners Workshop, Annapolis, MD.
- Blank, P. J.**, G. P. Dively, and D. E. Gill. 2007. *Invited Presentation*: Bird use of herbaceous filter strips bordering crop fields in Maryland. National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, Kansas City, MO.

CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference	2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013
University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Ecology Spring Symposium (Best Poster Award Winner)	2013
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Science Services poster session	2013
Patuxent Research Refuge, Maryland	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
The Wildlife Society, Maryland/Delaware Chapter, Fall Meeting	2007, 2009
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 Annual Symposium	2004

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Conservation Biology (1), *Journal of Wildlife Management* (2), *Journal of Field Ornithology* (1), *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* (2), *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (2), *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* (2), The Passenger Pigeon (1)

COMPUTER PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

R and SAS (data management and statistical analysis); ArcGIS Desktop (Geographic Information Systems); Google Earth Pro (Mapping); Fragstats (Landscape Analysis); SigmaPlot (Graphing); MS Office Suite