

SUMMARY CURRICULUM VITAE

[Mike Conner, Ph.D.](#)

Scientist

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Dr. Conner's interests include predator ecology, the impacts of predators on prey populations, anti-predator behaviors, and the role of habitat and habitat management on predation processes. Dr. Conner is active in The Wildlife Society; he is currently the Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council and has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society and President of the Georgia Chapter. Dr. Conner also served for three years as an Associate Editor for the Wildlife Society Bulletin and the Journal of Wildlife Management. Dr. Conner's outreach activities extend from his research interests and include seminars, workshops, and short courses on managing predation and the predation process.

Education:

Ph.D., Wildlife Ecology. Mississippi State University. 1995.
M.S., Wildlife Ecology. Mississippi State University. 1991. B.S.,
Wildlife Biology. University of Tennessee at Martin. 1988.

Professional Experience:

August 2011 - present: Scientist, The Jones Center at Ichauway
January 2002 - August 2011: Associate Scientist, The Jones Center at Ichauway
June 1997 – January 2002: Assistant Scientist, The Jones Center at Ichauway
1994 -1997: Assistant Professor, Arkansas Tech University

Adjunct and Courtesy Appointments

2013 - present: Adjunct Assistant Professor: University of Tennessee
2012 - present: Affiliate Assistant Professor: Auburn University
2007 - present: Courtesy Assistant Professor, University of Florida
1999 - present: Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Georgia
1996 - present: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University
1996: NASA Research Fellow, JOVE Faculty, John Stennis Space Center

Professional Affiliations:

The Wildlife Society

Recent Publications (past 5 years, * = graduate student):

- Pynne*, J. T., S. B. Castleberry, L. M. Conner, C. W. Piper**, E. I. Parsons*, R. A. Gitzen, S. I. Duncan, J. D. Austin, and R. A. McCleery. Ultraviolet fluorescence of pocket gophers. In Press. *American Midland Naturalist*.
- Pynne*, J. T., A. Whelan, S. B. Castleberry, L. M. Conner, E. I. Parsons*, R. A. Gitzen, J. D. Austin, S. I. Duncan, and R. A. McCleery. Southeastern pocket gopher tunnels provide stable thermal refugia. In Press. *American Midland Naturalist*.
- Sovie*, A. R., L. M. Conner, J. S. Brown, and R. A. McCleery. 2021. Competition from generalist species drives biotic homogenization in oak encroached savannas. *Biological Conservation* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.108971>.
- Crawford*, D., G. Morris, L. M. Conner, and M. J. Cherry. Predation risk increases heterogeneity in white-tailed deer diel activity patterns. 2020. *Behavioral Ecology*. DOI: 10.1093/beheco/araa089
- Bennett*, M. E., R.A. Gitzen, L. M Conner, M. D. Smith, E. C. Soehren, and S. B. Castleberry. 2020. Interactions of soil and vegetation determine habitat for southeastern pocket gophers. *American Midland Naturalist* 184:205-221. DOI: 10.1637/0003-0031-184.2.205
- Potash*, A. D., D. U. Greene, V. L. Mathis, B. Baiser, L. M. Conner, and R. A. McCleery. 2020. Ecological drivers of eastern fox squirrel pelage polymorphism. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 8:119. DOI: [10.3389/fevo.2020.00119](https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2020.00119)
- Potash*, A. D., D. U. Greene, V. Mathis, L. M. Conner, and R. A. McCleery. 2020. A comparison of pelage color measurements using a digital color sensor and photograph analysis. *Current Zoology*. DOI: 10.1093/cz/zoaa016.
- Jorge*, M., L. M. Conner, E. P. Garrison, and M. J. Cherry. 2020. Fire and land cover drive predator abundances in a pyric landscape. *Forest Ecology and Management* 461:117939. DOI: [10.1016/j.foreco.2020.117939](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2020.117939)
- Potash*, A., C. M. Murphy*, J. T. Pynne*, R. A. McCleery, L. M. Conner, S. B. Castleberry, and L. L. Smith. 2020. Eastern fox squirrel observed using a gopher tortoise burrow. *Southeastern Naturalist* DOI: 10.1656/058.019.0109
- Turner*, K. L., L. M. Conner, and J. C. Beasley. 2020. Effect of mammalian mesopredator exclusion on vertebrate scavenging communities. *Scientific Reports*. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-59560-9
- Duncan, S., J. T. Pynne*, E. E. Parsons*, R. Fletcher, J. Austin, S. Castleberry, L. M. Conner, M. Barbour, and R. A. McCleery. 2020. Land use and cover effects on a

declining fossorial mammal. *Forest Ecology and Management*.

DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2019.117642

- Abernathy*, H. N., D. A. Crawford*, E. P. Garrison, R. B. Chandler, L. M. Conner, and M. J. Cherry. 2019. Deer movements and resource selection during Hurricane Irma – Implications for wildlife and extreme climatic events. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 286: doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.2230.
- Morris, G., and L. M. Conner. 2019. Mesocarnivores affect hispid cotton rat body mass. *Scientific Reports* 9:14615.
- Pynne*, J. T., S. B. Castleberry, L. M. Conner, E. I. Parsons*, R. A. Gitzen, J. D. Austin, S. I. Duncan, and R. A. McCleery. 2019. Timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) predation on a southeastern pocket gopher (*Geomys pinetis*). *Southeastern Naturalist* 18: DOI: 10.1656/058.018.0301.
- Gleim*, E. R., Zemstova, G. E., R. D. Berghaus, M. L. Levin, L. M. Conner, M. J. Yabsley. 2019. Frequent prescribed fires can reduce risk of tick-borne disease. *Scientific Reports* 9:9974 | <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-46377-4>
- Potash*, A., L. M. Conner, R. A. McCleery. 2019. Vertical and horizontal vegetation cover synergistically shape prey behavior. *Animal Behaviour* 152: 39-44.
- McIntyre, K., L. M. Conner, S. Jack, E. Schlimm, and L. Smith. 2019. Wildlife habitat condition in open pine woodlands: Field data refine management targets. *Forest Ecology and Management* 437:282-294.
- Gleim*, E. R., L. M. Conner, G. E. Zemstova, M. L. Levin, P. Wong, M. A. Pfaf, and M. J. Yabsley. 2019. Rickettsiales in ticks removed from outdoor workers in southwest Georgia and northwest Florida. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. DOI:10.3201/eid2505.180438
- Crawford*, D. A., M. J. Cherry, B. D. Kelly*, E. P. Garrison, D. B. Shindle, L. M. Conner, R. B. Chandler, and K. V. Miller. 2019. Chronology of reproductive investment determines predation risk aversion in a felid-ungulate system. *Ecology and Evolution*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ece3.4947>
- N. B. Moore**, S. I. Duncan, E. I. Parsons*, J. T. Pynne*, J. D. Austin, L. M. Conner, S. B. Castleberry, R. A. Gitzen, and R. A. McCleery. 2019. A new live trap for southeastern pocket gophers. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. DOI:10.1002/wsb.956
- Wood*, J. T., B. S. Cohen, L. M. Conner, B. A. Collier, M. J. Chamberlain. 2019. Nest and brood sites of eastern wild turkeys. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21562
- Little, A. R., L. M. Conner, M. J. Chamberlain, N. P. Nibblelink, and R. J. Warren. Adult bobcat habitat selection in a fire-maintained savanna. 2018. *Ecological Processes* <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13717-018-0129-5>
- Klopmeier N. W.**, S. M. Pesi **, G. Morris, and L. M. Conner. 2018. Sinkholes as a source for wildlife mortality. *Southeastern Naturalist* 17: 64-67.
- Potash*, A. D., L. M. Conner, and R. A. McCleery. 2018. Extreme movements of an individual Fox squirrel. *Southeastern Naturalist* 17: 40-43.
- Gulsby, W., M. Cherry, J. Johnson*, M. Conner, and K. Miller. 2018. Behavioral response of white-tailed deer to coyote predation risk. *Ecosphere* 9(3):e02141.
- Wood*, J., B. S. Cohen, T. Prebyl, L. M. Conner, B. A. Collier, and M. J. Chamberlain. 2018. Time-since-fire and seral stage affect habitat selection of eastern wild turkeys in a managed longleaf pine ecosystem. *Forest Ecology and Management* 411: 203–212.
- Cherry, M. J., R. B. Chandler, E. P. Garrison, D. A. Crawford, B. D. Kelly, D. B. Shindle, K. G. Godsea, K. V. Miller, and L. M. Conner. 2018. Wildfire affects space use and movement of white-tailed deer in a tropical pyric landscape. *Forest Ecology and Management* 409:161-169.

- Morris, G and L. M. Conner. 2017. Assessment of accuracy, fix success rate, and use of estimated horizontal position error (EHPE) to filter inaccurate data collected by commercially available GPS loggers. *PLoS ONE* 12(11):e0189020.
- Warren*, A. E., S. B. Castleberry, L. M. Conner, and D. Markewitz. 2017. Understory vegetation and soil characteristics of southeastern pocket gopher habitat in southwestern Georgia. *American Midland Naturalist* 178:215-225.
- Warren*, A. E., L. M. Conner, S. B. Castleberry, and D. Markewitz. 2017. Home range, survival, and activity patterns of the Southeastern Pocket Gopher: Implications for translocation. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 8: 544-557.
- Deuel*, N. R., L. M. Conner, K. V. Miller, M. J. Chamberlain, M. J. Cherry, and L. V. Tannenbaum. 2017. Habitat selection and diurnal Refugia of gray foxes in southwestern Georgia, USA. *PLoS ONE* 12(10):e0186402.
- Turner*, K. L., E. F. Abernathy, L. M. Conner, O. E. Rhodes, J. C. Beasley. 2017. Abiotic and biotic factors modulate carrion fate and scavenging communities. *Ecology* 98:2413-2424.
- Deuel*, N. R., L. M. Conner, K. V. Miller, M. J. Chamberlain, M. J. Cherry, and L. V. Tannenbaum. 2017. Gray fox home range, spatial overlap, mated pair interactions and extra-territorial forays in southwestern Georgia, USA. *Wildlife Biology* doi: 10.2981/wlb.00326.
- Cherry*, M. J., R. J. Warren, and L. M. Conner. 2017. Fire mediated tradeoffs during fawning in white-tailed deer. *Ecosphere* 8:e01784. 10.1002/ecs2.1784.
- Darracq*, A. K., L. L. Smith, D. Oi, L. M. Conner, and R. A. McCleery. 2017. Invasive ants influence native lizard populations. *Ecosphere* 8:e01657.10.1002/ecs2.1657.
- Cherry*, M. J., P. Howell, C. D. Seagraves, R. J. Warren, and L. M. Conner. 2017. Effects of Land cover on coyote abundance. *Wildlife Research* doi/10.1071/WR16052.
- Kirby*, R. B., L. M. Conner, L. Muller, and M. J. Chamberlain. 2016. The importance of hardwood trees as raccoon daytime resting sites in a longleaf pine forest. *Restoration Ecology*. DOI: 10.1111/rec.12455.
- Kirby*, R. B., M. J. Cherry, L. I. Muller, R. J. Warren, M. J. Chamberlain, and L. M. Conner. 2016. Indirect predation management in a longleaf pine ecosystem: hardwood removal and the spatial ecology of raccoons. *Forest Ecology and Management* 381:327-334.
- Little*, A. R., M. J. Chamberlain, L. M. Conner, and R. J. Warren. 2016. Habitat selection of wild turkeys in 2 frequently-burned pine savannas. *Journal of Wildlife Management* doi: 10.1002/jwmg.21114.
- Little*, A. R., M. J. Conroy, M. J. Chamberlain, L. M. Conner, and R. J. Warren. 2016. Survival and cause-specific mortality of female eastern wild turkeys in 2 frequently burned pine savannas. *Wildlife Biology* 238-245.
- Little*, A. R., M. J. Chamberlain, L. M. Conner, and R. J. Warren. 2016. Eastern wild turkey nest site selection in two frequently-burned pine savannas. *Ecological Processes*. DOI 10.1186/s13717-016-0051-7.
- Cherry*, M. J., R. J. Warren, and L. M. Conner. 2016. Fear, fire, and behaviorally mediated trophic cascades in a frequently burned savanna. *Forest Ecology and Management* 368:133-139.
- Chitwood, M. C., M. A. Lashley, J. C. Kilgo, M. J. Cherry, L. M. Conner, M. Vukovich, H. S. Ray, C. Ruth, R. J. Warren, C. S. Deperno, and C. E. Moorman. 2016. Are cameras useful for assessing recruitment in white-tailed deer? *Wildlife Biology*. Doi 10.2981/wlb.00178

Morris, G. and L. M. Conner. 2016. Effects of forest management practices, weather, and indices of nest predator abundance on nest predation: a 12-year artificial nest study. *Forest Ecology and Management* 366:23-3.

Cherry*, M. J., K. L. Turner*, M. B. Howze, D. S. Cohen, L. M. Conner, and R. J. Warren. 2016. Coyote diets in a longleaf pine ecosystem. *Wildlife Biology* 22:64-70.

External Grants and Contracts: (Active during past 5 years)

Southwest Georgia Integrated Feral Swine Control Project. \$ 2,000,000 (Jones Center Contract \$ 348,358). NRCS. Submitted 2019. Funded 2020. Project Duration 4 years. Co-PI with Steve Golladay.

Removal and relocation of *Geomys pinetis* (southeastern pocket gophers) from highway GA-200 bridge replacement area in Newton, Georgia. \$28,284.00. Funded 2017. Duration 1 year. Co-PI with J. T. Pyne and Steven Castleberry.

NEON sites as a platform for transformative wildlife research. \$299,611. National Science Foundation. Submitted 2015. Funded 2015. Duration 2 years. Co-PI with Bob McCleery.

Using an ecosystem engineer to restore functionality to natural pinelands in the southeastern United States. \$491,667. State Wildlife Grants Program. Submitted 2015. Funded 2015. Duration 3 years. Co-investigator with Drs. Bob McCleery (PI), Bob Gitzen, and Steven Castleberry.

Movement Ecology of female wild turkeys during the nesting and brooding seasons on Silver Lake Wildlife Management Area. \$232,257.00. Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Submitted 2013. Funded 2014. Duration 3 years. Co-investigator with Mike Chamberlain (PI).

Using wildlife habitat models to evaluate management endpoints for open pine woodland and savanna. \$132,000.00. Gulf Coastal Plain and Ozark Plateau Land Conservation Cooperative. Submitted 2013. Funded 2014. Duration 2 years. Co-PI with Lora Smith.

Effects of hydrology, hunting, and predation on white-tailed deer dynamics in South Florida. \$1,162,602.00. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Submitted 2014. Funded 2014. Duration 4 years. Co-investigator with Richard Chandler (Co-PI), Mike Cherry (Co-PI), Karl Miller, and Bob Warren.

Seasonal movements and habitat selection of gray foxes relative to prescribed fire and hardwood removal. Department of Defense. \$133,699.00. Submitted 2013. Funded 2013. Duration 3 years. PI with Karl Miller and Mike Chamberlain Co-investigators.

Development and evaluation of an unbaited camera survey technique for estimating relative abundance and demographic parameters of white-tailed deer. \$365,460.00. Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Submitted 2013. Funded 2014. Duration 3 years. Co-investigator with Will Gulsby (PI), Mike Cherry, Charlie Killmaster, and Karl Miller.

Current Jones Center Programmatic Research Themes:

Wildlife habitat associations and management effects

Animal interactions

Species of conservation importance and indicator species