# **DAVID S. MASON**

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EDUCATION	
<b>Doctor of Philosophy – University of Florida</b> Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	December 2022
Master of Science – Mississippi State University Department of Biological Sciences	December 2018
Bachelor of Arts – Richard Stockton University Major: Environmental Studies	December 2013
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	
Assistant Scientist	January 2025—Current
Plant Ecology Lab	
The Jones Center at Ichauway, Newton, GA	
Post-doctoral Researcher	January 2024—December 2025
Boone and Crockett Fellow	
Wild Foods Institute	
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,	
Michigan State University, Lansing, MI	
Post-doctoral Researcher	January 2023—December 2024
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department,	
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL	
Graduate Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL	August 2019—December 2022

# PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

(15 Published, 2 Editorial, 3 In Review) [Media coverage]

## PUBLISHED MANUSRIPTS

- Mason, D. S., Bell, M. E., Kellner, K. F., Bennett, A., Weston, T., Presgrove, J., & Belant, J. L. (2024). Wild harvests could aid food insecurity and reduce wildlife hyperabundance. *BioScience*, biae110. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biae110</u>. [4 outlets]
- Kays, R. et al. (85<sup>th</sup> out of 177 authors). 2024. Climate, food and humans predict communities of mammals in the United States. *Diversity and Distributions* 30(9): e13900. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13900</u>.
- Shamon, H. et al. (93<sup>rd</sup> of 144 authors listed in alphabetical order). 2024. SNAPSHOT USA 2021: A third coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. *Ecology* 105(6): e4318. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.4318</u>.

- Burton, C. et al. (135<sup>th</sup> of 222 authors listed in alphabetical order). 2024. Mammal responses to global changes in human activity vary by trophic group and landscape. *Nature Ecology* and Evolution 8: 924–935. <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-024-02363-2</u>.
- Holdgrafer, J. P., D. S. Mason, T. S. Coleman, & M. A. Lashley. 2024. Food resource richness increases seed disperser visitations and seed rain richness. *Ecology and Evolution* 14(3): e11093. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11093</u>
- Mason, D. S., A. K., Jones, B. T., Barton, M., Proctor, S. L., Webb, & M. A. Lashley. 2023. Coyotes eat flies at carrion. *Food Webs*: e00309. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fooweb.2023.e00309</u>
- Kays, R. et al. (92<sup>nd</sup> of 152 authors listed in alphabetical order by institution). 2022. SNAPSHOT USA 2020: A second coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Ecology* 103(10): e3775. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3775</u>
- 8. Mason, D. S., C. Baruzzi, & M. A. Lashley. 2022. Passive directed dispersal of plants by animals. *Biological Reviews* 97(5): 1908-1929. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12875</u>
- 7. **Mason, D. S**. 2022. Heterocarpochory: hitching a ride on fruit. *Ecology* 103(6): e3628. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3628</u>
- Boggess, C. M., D. S. Mason, H. D. Alexander, B. K. Strickland, & M. A. Lashley. 2021. Facultative seed predators drive community-level indirect effects of mast seeding. *Forest Ecology and Management* 502(15): 119713. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2021.119713</u>
- Lázaro-Lobo, A. et al. (19<sup>th</sup> of 20 authors). 2021. Phenotypic differentiation among native, expansive and introduced populations influences invasion success. *Journal of Biogeography* 48(11): 2907-2918. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14252</u>
- Cove, M. V. et al. (95<sup>th</sup> of 154 authors listed in alphabetical order by institution). 2021. SNAPSHOT USA 2019: a coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. *Ecology* 102(6): e03353. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3353</u> [5 outlets]
- Mason, D.S., & M.A. Lashley. 2021. Spatial scale in prescribed fire regimes: an understudied aspect in conservation with examples from the southeastern United States. *Fire Ecology* 17(3): 1-14. <u>https://doi.org/10.1186/s42408-020-00087-9</u> [1 outlet, 1 podcast]
- Westlake, S.M., D. Mason, A. Lazaro Lobo, P. Burr, J.R. McCollum, D. Chance, & M.A. Lashley. 2020. The magnet effect of fire on herbivores affects plant community structure in a forested system. *Forest Ecology and Management* 458(15): 1177794. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2019.117794</u>.
- 1. Baruzzi, C., **D. Mason,** B. Barton, & M. Lashley. 2018. Effects of increasing carrion biomass on food webs. *Food Webs* 17: e00096. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fooweb.2018.e00096</u>.

# EDITORIALS

- Mason, D. S., M. E. Bell, K. F. Kellner, A. Bennett, T. Weston, J. Presgrove, T. R. Petroelje, C. Stewart, & J. L. Belant. *Accepted*. Wild harvests could aid food insecurity and reduce wildlife hyperabundance. *BioScience*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biae110</u>.
- 1. Mason, D. & C. Baruzzi. 2019. Love in Strange Places. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 17(3): 184. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2027.</u>

## SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW

- 3. Mason, D. S., M. E. Bell, K. F. Kellner, C. M. Stewart, & J. L. Belant. Wild-harvested game meat donations provide limited food security. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.
- 2. Mason, D. S., K. M. Robertson, P. G. Hahn, E. M. Bruna, J. L. Willis, & M. A. Lashley. Fire promotes passive directed seed dispersal by birds. *Current Biology*.
- 1. Rooney, B. et al. (**113**<sup>th</sup> of 196 authors listed in alphabetical order). Snapshot USA 2022: Year 4 of the coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. *Ecology*.

#### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

(2 Conference Presentations, 2 Invited Presentation, 1 Invited Speaker, 5 Presented Posters)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2. Zeitler, E., M. Lashley, **D. Mason**, & K. Robertson. 2022. *Dung beetle diet preference strengthens secondary seed dispersal*. British Ecological Society Annual Meeting. Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 1. Mason, D. S. & M. A. Lashley. 2020. *Wildlife contribute to plant community assembly in life and death*. 27th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Louisville, Kentucky. With published abstract.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Mason, D. S., M. E. Bell, K. F. Kellner, A. Bennett, T. Weston, J. Presgrove, T. R. Petroelje, C. Stewart, & J. L. Belant. 2024. Assessing strategies to manage hyperabundant white-tailed deer in southern Michigan. 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Deer and Turkey Study Group. Gaylord, Michigan.
- 1. **Mason, D. S.**, K. M. Robertson, & M. A. Lashley. 2021. *Fire-driven seed rain*. 28th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Virtual. With published abstract. Invited to the Fire Effects on Biodiversity Symposium.

# INVITED SPEAKER

1. **Mason, D. S**. 2022. *Resource pulses influence plant establishment via animal vectors*. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Seminar Series, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

## PRESENTED POSTERS

- 5. Mason, D. S. & M. A. Lashley. 2019. *Are bird feeders evolutionary traps for bird-dispersed plants?* Poster presented at The Wildlife Society 26th Annual Conference, Reno, NV.
- O'Connell, C., C. Baruzzi, D. Mason, G. Jones, M. Cove, B. Barton, & M. Lashley. 2018. Horizontal and vertical camera trapping designs produce different species richness in carrion food webs. Poster presented at The Wildlife Society 25th Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH.
- 3. Kiska, R., D. S. Mason, W. Redman, R. Adams, P. Townsend, R. Mack, B. Trainor, P.J. Baker, & T.J. Baker. 2012. *Characteristics of vernal ponds influence occupancy, community structure, and reproductive success of spring breeding amphibians.* Poster presented during School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics poster competition at Richard Stockton University, Absecon, NJ.
- Mason, D. S. 2012. Modeling the population growth of Amanita phalloides in California. Poster presented during Spring 2012 School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics poster competition at Richard Stockton University, Absecon NJ.

1. **Mason, D.** & E. Parker. 2012. *Effects of land use on aquatic plant communities*. Poster presented during Montclair State REU Student Symposium, Montclair, NJ.

# **GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING EXPERIENCE** (2 Students)

2021	<ul> <li>Moriah Boggess, M.S. student, Mississippi State University</li> <li>Supervised statistical analysis on the effects of acorn masting on understory plant vegetation.</li> <li>Graduate-student led manuscript on indirect effects of oak masting on understory plants published in <i>Forest Ecology and Management</i>.</li> </ul>
2020	<ul> <li>Beau Navarro, M.S. student, Mississippi State University</li> <li>Designed and built traps for seed collection efforts at wildlife feeders.</li> <li>Instructed community analysis of plant and seed communities for thesis.</li> <li>Conducting revised analyses and leading a manuscript based on this work.</li> </ul>

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING EXPERIENCE (1 Students)

- 2020 James Holdgrafer, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Project
  - Developed research question and field experiment.
  - Collaboratively published manuscript in *Ecology and Evolution*.

# OUTREACH

# INVITED WEBINARS

- Mason, D. S. 2022. Fire generates seed rain via the magnet effect. Ona Highlight, Range Cattle Research & Education Center. July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 15 Participants. 100 Views.
- 1. **Mason, D. S.** & M. A. Lashley. 2021. *Spatial scale in prescribed fire regimes: an understudied aspect in conservation with examples from the southeastern United States*. Southern Fire Exchange Webinar Series. November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. ~80 Participants. 234 Views.

# PODCASTS

- Appeared as guest on Episode 14: "Seed dispersal" of *How Ecology Works*, hosted by UF
   D.E.E.R. lab primary investigator Marcus A. Lashley (2022, September 4<sup>th</sup>).
- Appeared as guest on Episode 42: "Songbirds, Fire, and Seed Dispersal" of *Backyard Ecology*, hosted by Shannon Trimboli (2022, January 20<sup>th</sup>).
- Appeared as guest on Episode 18: "Planting the Idea for More Fire" of *Fire University*, hosted by UF D.E.E.R. lab primary investigator Marcus A. Lashley. (2021, December 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Appeared as guest on Episode 11: "Spatial Scale in Prescribed Fire Regimes" of *Fire Ecology Chats*, hosted by *Fire Ecology* editor Bob Keane. (2021, March 17<sup>th</sup>).

# AWARDED GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 Key Collaborator for USFS Project agreement "Interactive effects between repeated seasonal prescribed fire and wildlife utilization on understory species diversity in the longleaf pine ecosystem (20-JV-11330170-046 [\$13,500])," Principal investigators Marcus A. Lashley and John L. Willis.
- 2020 Grinter Fellowship (\$8,500 | Faculty-nominated | Competitive), University of Florida
- 2012 Distinguished Student Fellowship (\$1,000 | Self-nominated | Competitive), Richard Stockton University

# **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Herbarium Research Assistant Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS	August 2016—April 2019
Field Technician Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS	May—July 2018
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Student Fellow New Jersey School of Conservation Montclair State University, Sandyston, NJ	June—July 2012
OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE	
Assistant Director Campus NYC New York, NY	July 2017
Assistant Director/Director Centenary Summer Scholars Centenary College, Hackettstown, NJ	June—July 2016
<b>Outdoor Education Instructor/Outdoor Education Leader</b> Camp Olympia, Houston ISD Trinity, TX	August 2015—May 2016
Academic Director Centenary Summer Scholars Hackettstown, NJ	June—July 2015
Outdoor Education Instructor Battlecreek Outdoor Education Center Dowling, MI	September 2014—May 2015
Sustainability Teacher Centenary Summer Scholars Hackettstown, NJ	June—July 2014
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> HollyDELL School Sewell, NJ	June 2008—December 2010

## AWARDS

WGSA Student Award (\$250   Self-nominated   Competitive), University of Florida	
3MT Grand Champion Runner Up (\$750), Mississippi State University	2016
Outdoor Educator of the Month, Camp Olympia Outdoor Education Center (TX, USA)	2015
NAMS Poster Competition (2 <sup>nd</sup> place), Richard Stockton University	2012
Dean's List, Richard Stockton University	2011
President's List, Rowan College of South Jersey	2010

# INVITED COURSE LECTURES [Asynchronous lecture\*]

- Mason, D. S. 2024. *Biodiversity measures*. Quantitative Methods for Natural Resources. Natural Resources Institute, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA. April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. 6 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2023. *Plant habitat selection*. Wildlife Ecology and Management (WIS 3401).
   Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 43 Participants over two separate sections.
- Mason, D. S. 2023. Sampling understory vegetation. Wildlife Habitat Management (WIS 4427). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 5 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2023. *Biodiversity measures*. Quantitative Methods for Natural Resources. Natural Resources Institute, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA. April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 7 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2021. *Plant dispersal*. Wildlife Habitat Management (WIS 4427). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. 10 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2021\*. Succession and habitats. Wildlife Ecology and Management (WIS 3401). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. 44 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2021\*. Dispersal and distributions. Wildlife Ecology and Management (WIS 3401). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 44 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2020\*. Succession and habitats. Wildlife Ecology and Management (WIS 3401).
   Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Mason, D. S. 2020\*. Dispersal and distributions. Wildlife Ecology and Management (WIS 3401). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Mason, D. S. 2020. Sampling understory vegetation. Wildlife Habitat Management (WIS 4427). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 15 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2020. *Dispersal in higher plants*. Wildlife Habitat Management (WIS 4427). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA. February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 15 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2017. Herbivory and aquatic Plants. Aquatic Botany (BIO 4224). Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University, Starkville, USA. October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 20 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2017. Dispersal in higher plants. Wildlife Plant Identification (WFA 4223). Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Starkville, USA. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 24 participants.
- Mason, D. S. 2017. *Dispersal in higher plants*. Wildlife Plant Identification (WFA 4223). Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Starkville, USA. May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 8 participants.

- 4. Mason, D. S. 2023. review of *Game Theory in Biology: Concepts and Frontiers*, by John McNamara & Olof Leimar. *Journal of Wildlife Management*: e22389.
- 3. Mason, D. S. 2021. review of Oak Seed Dispersal: A Study in Plant-Animal Interactions, by Michael A. Steele. Journal of Wildlife Management 86(4): e22232. https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22232.
- 2. Mason, D. S. 2021. review of *Biology of Grasslands*, by Brian J. Wilsey. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 85(4): 815. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.22002.</u>
- Mason, D. S. 2019. review of *Fire Ecology of Florida and the Southeastern Coastal Plain*, by Reed Noss. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 84(1): 193. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.21757</u>.

# **AD-HOC REVIEWER**

- 2023 Conservation Letters, Food Webs
- 2022 Ecology and Evolution, Journal of Wildland Fire
- 2020 Ecology and Evolution, Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs
- 2019 Forest Ecology and Management, Ecology and Evolution
- 2017 Forest Science

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022 UF Chapter chaperone, TWS Southeastern Wildlife Conclave (TN, USA)
- 2020 Volunteer for Beast Feast, University of Florida
- 2017 President of Biology Graduate Student Association, Mississippi State University
- 2017 Volunteer Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University
- 2016 Volunteer Judge, Henderson Ward Steward Elementary School (MS, USA)
- 2016 Student-Faculty Liaison, Mississippi State University
- 2015 Open Spaces Commissioner, Pitman Environmental Commission (NJ, USA)
- 2011 Volunteered for Trail Crew, Franklin Parker Preserve (NJ, USA)
- 2011 Volunteered building childcare rain garden, Stockton Water Watch (NJ, USA)
- 2011 Volunteered for poster campaign, SAVE (NJ, USA)
- 2010 Volunteer for Salad Days, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (ME, USA)
- 2009 Organized Clean-up of Natural Area at Memorial School (NJ, USA)
- 2009 Organized Toy-drive for Eleanor Corbett Safe Haven (NJ, USA)

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

The Wildlife Society (2024, December 11<sup>th</sup>). Possible win-win for wildlife management and food security. *TWS News*.

James Verdier (2024, December 4<sup>th</sup>). Wild game meat donations could blund food insecurity, reduce overabundant wildlife. American Institute of Biological Sciences. *EurekAlert!* 

Adapted for Phys.org, Nation.lk

Bakirci, C. M., Günal, A., & Kalacyik, B. (2021, August 20<sup>th</sup>). Why Experts Set Fires On Purpose, and Why It's Useful for Some Forests and Fires)? *Evrim Ağaci.* 

Pishney, J. (2021, June 9<sup>th</sup>). Snapshot USA: first-ever nationwide mammal survey published. *North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.* 

Adapted for Mirage News (x2), Bioegineer.org, Science Magazine, Phys.org, EurekAlert!

Imbra, S. (2020, January 22<sup>nd</sup>). Scientists Are Simulating Mass Animal Die-Offs in an Oklahoma Prairie: Understanding the ecological impact of hundreds of dead feral hogs. *Atlas Obscura*.

Barton, B. & A. Jones. (2020, January 10<sup>th</sup>). Rotting feral pig carcasses teach scientists what happens when tons of animals die all at once, as in Australia's bushfires. *The Conversation*.

Adapted in *American Scientist* as "What's Left When Animals Die." (March-April 2020, Volume 108, Number 2, p. 80).

# **OTHER PREPARED GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

2023	Key Collaborator on University of Florida Faculty Invasion Science Research Institute Seed Grant proposal for project titled "Developing artificial intelligence tools for monitoring vertebrate invasions in Florida," <i>Principal Investigators: Marcus A. Lashley,</i> <i>Hance Ellington</i> [\$50,000] [Not awarded]
2023	Key collaborator on National Wild Turkey Federation proposal for project "Effects of corn feeders on wild turkey," <i>Principal Investigators</i> : Marcus A. Lashley & David S. Mason [\$372,750] [Not awarded]
2022	Key collaborator on USFS Southern Research Proposal Station for project "A protocol to simultaneously and efficiently monitor plant and avian community diversity and the seed dispersal ecosystem service," <i>Principal Investigators</i> : John L. Willis, Dan Saenz, & Marcus A. Lashley [\$256,181] [Not awarded]
2022	American Ornithological Society Research Award [\$2,500] [Not awarded]
2022	Garden Club of America Catherine H. Beattie Fellowship [\$4,500] [Not awarded]
2022	The Frances M. Peacock Scholarship for Native Bird Habitat [\$4,500] [Not awarded]
2021	The Longleaf Alliance Owens Fellowship [\$15,000] [Finalist, Not awarded]
2021	Key collaborator on UF Seed Grant titled "Leveraging Snapshot USA to monitor animal diversity and understand acorn caching behavior," <i>Principal Investigators</i> : Marcus A. Lashley & Hance Ellington [\$77,869] [Not awarded]
2020	Key collaborator on NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant for "Enlisting wildlife to achieve desired forest conditions with prescribed fire," <i>Principal Investigator</i> : Marcus A. Lashley [\$217,588] [Not awarded]
2019	Joint Fire Science Program Graduate Research Innovation Award [\$5,272] [Not awarded]
2019	Torrey Botanical Society Graduate Student Research Fellowship [\$2,488] [Not awarded]
2019	Maryland Native Plant Society Research Grant [\$2,732] [Not awarded]
2019	Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant [\$2,334] [Not awarded]
2018	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program [\$114,000] [Not awarded]
2018	National Geographic Early Career Grant [\$10,000] [Not awarded]

## OTHER PREPARED AWARD SUBMISSIONS

2022	College of Arts and Sciences Innovation in Teaching Award University of Florida Nominee: Marcus A. Lashley [Awarded] nominator: David S. Mason
2022	College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award University of Florida Nominee: Marcus A. Lashley [Not awarded] Nominator: David S. Mason
2022	College of Arts and Sciences Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence University of Florida Nominee: David S. Mason [Not awarded] Nominator: David S. Mason *Included 3 letters of support
2022	College of Arts and Sciences Jack L. Fry Graduate Student Teaching Award University of Florida Nominee: David S. Mason [Not awarded] Nominator: Eric. C Hellgren *Included 6 letters of support
2018	Biological Sciences Graduate Teaching Assistant Award Mississippi State University Nominee: Cory M. Shoemaker [Not awarded] Nominator: David S. Mason

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2021 Preparing Future Faculty, Graduate School, University of Florida

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES**

Current FAA Remote Pilot Certificate

## **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

Ecological Society of America The Wildlife Society The Longleaf Alliance