

Dr. ALEX J. JENSEN

Assistant Professor | Texas State University

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Texas State University
- Primarily works on mammal community ecology and range dynamics
- 38 peer reviewed publications, first author on 14 of these
- 10 years of experience leading collaborations with government agencies and non-profits
- 10 years of teaching experience, including co-instructor of record
- \$24,129 received from grants and awards

EDUCATION

2018-2023 PhD, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Clemson University, South Carolina
Dissertation: *Top-down effects and resource selection of coyotes in South Carolina*
Advisor: [Dr. David Jachowski](#)



2016-2018 Master of Science, Biological Sciences
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Thesis: *Quantifying wildlife use of crossing structures along a major highway in California*
Advisor: [Dr. John Perrine](#)

CAL POLY

2009-2013 Bachelor of Science, Zoology
University of California, Santa Barbara



RESEARCH

Primary Expertise: community ecology, range dynamics, non-native species, carnivore ecology and conservation, iNaturalist, road ecology, shaping the environmental science workforce

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2025-2026 *Research Associate*, Biodiversity Lab, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC

2023-2025 *Postdoctoral Associate*, Biodiversity Lab, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC. Primary supervisor: [Dr. Roland Kays](#)

2018-2023 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, Clemson University, South Carolina

2014-2016 *Biological Technician*, Citrus Research Board, University of California Riverside

2012-2013 *Research Assistant*, Parasite Ecology Group, University of California Santa Barbara

2011-2012 *Zoology Intern*, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, University of California Santa Barbara

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS | [Google Scholar](#)

In review

Jensen A, L Thompson, A Bunch. Shifting perceptions of nativeness for rapidly expanding

neonative species. *People and Nature in review*

Goldstein B, K Pacifici, **A Jensen**, B Reich, M Cove, W McShea, B Rooney, E Kierepka, R Roberts, R Kays. Widespread spatial variation in the effects of environment on North American mammals. *Global Ecology and Biogeography in review*

Chen X, **A Jensen**, R Kays, M Cove, L Aguirre, X Feng. Non-linear anthropogenic effects on mammalian range expansion. *Frontiers in Biogeography in review*

R Kays, D Balbuena, X Barrios, E Calderón, R Camus, B Choza, E Cosio, R Cruz, T Gregersen, **A Jensen**, G Inga, Nick Soto, R Guerrero, A Lohr, A Mamani, V Marin, U Mueller, B Neuber, C Noriega-Mauricio, K Pillaca, Nina Richter, G Wilbs, R Zuniga, K Thorup, T Wild, Martin Wikelski. Fine scale rhythms underlie the pace of life of tropical bats and birds. *PLOS One in review*

Kiernan S, D Jachowski, J Butfiloski, J Cantrell, C Ruth, J Kilgo, **A Jensen**. Risky times and risky places for a novel apex carnivore. *Wildlife Research in review*

Published

- 2026 39. Alyetama M, **A Jensen**, Y Jackson, J Widness, R Kays, B Goldstein. iNaturalist mammal observations classified by observation type. [PLOS One](#)
- 2026 38. **Jensen A**, B Goldstein, K Fukasawa, F Iannirilli, R Kays. Large mammal recovery in the wake of human population decline. [Journal of Applied Ecology](#)
- 2026 37. **Jensen A**, T Ackley, M Alyetama, M Cove, L Fritzsche, B Goldstein, D Herrera, L Jenkins, E Kierepka, S McMurry, L Moretto, B Scholten, D Sossover, S Starr, A Weeks, R Kays. A global tour of iNaturalist mammal data: status, trends, and outlook for macroecology and conservation. [Journal of Mammalogy](#)
- 2026 36. Rooney B, ... **A Jensen**, ..., W McShea. SNAPSHOT USA 2024: Year 6 of the coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. [Global Ecology and Biogeography](#)
- 2026 35. **Jensen A**, M Muthersbaugh, K Brogdon, J Butfiloski, C Ruth, J Adams, L Waits, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. An omnivore's options: overlapping resource pulses buffer apex carnivore predation of herbivore prey. [Ecosphere](#)
- 2026 34. **Jensen A**, K Rivera, M Rodriguez-Curras. A global comparison of common approaches for tracing carnivore diet. [Mammal Review](#)
- 2025 33. **Jensen A**. Dances like wolves? Evaluating ecological replacement of apex predators in eastern North America. [Stacks Journal](#)
- 2025 32. Liu J, Y Kang, **A Jensen**, R Kays, A Jiang. Apex predator loss drives trophic downgrading in China's protected areas. [Current Biology](#)
- 2025 31. **Jensen A**, B Goldstein, K Pacifici, M Cove, E Kierepka, B Rooney, W McShea, R Kays. Mammals on the margins: identifying the drivers and limitations of range expansions. [Global Change Biology](#)
- 2025 30. Muthersbaugh M, E Saldo, **A Jensen**, J Cantrell, C Ruth, B Ross, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. Responses of a large herbivore to predation risk are modulated by intrinsic and extrinsic factors.

- 2025 29. Sibiya M, B Goldstein, K Pacifici, R Kays, M Cove, **A Jensen**, W McShea, B Mason, C Callaghan, M Lashley, C Baruzzi. Assessing spatial ecological patterns of wild turkey relative abundance across North America. [Wildlife Society Bulletin](#)
- 2025 28. Muthersbaugh M, E Saldo, **A Jensen**, J Cantrell, C Ruth, B Ross, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. Evaluating potential altered harvest and predator management strategies to increase white-tailed deer population growth in Southeastern U.S. [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#)
- 2025 27. Muthersbaugh M, W Boone, E Saldo, **A Jensen**, J Cantrell, C Ruth, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. Multi-scale maternal behavioral responses by white-tailed deer to coyote predation risk. [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#)
- 2025 26. E Baker, M Dennis, D Miller, S Rajeev, M Abouelkhair, **A Jensen**, C Black, R Gerhold. Survey of coyotes for vector-borne and bacterial pathogens in the South Carolina and Tennessee, United States. [Journal of Wildlife Diseases](#)
- 2025 25. Herrera D, C Schalk, **A Jensen**, B Goldstein, B Rooney, R Kays, W McShea, M Cove. iNaturalist and structured mammal surveys reflect similar species richness but capture different species pools across the United States. [Ecology and Evolution](#)
- 2025 24. Baker E, M Dennis, D Miller, C Su, A Von Dohlen, M Abouelkhair, S Hamer, **A Jensen**, R Gerhold. Pathology and Parasitology of Free-Ranging Coyotes from Tennessee and South Carolina. [PLOS ONE](#)
- 2025 23. Rooney B, ... **A Jensen**, ..., W McShea. The first five years of data from a coordinated camera trap survey of the United States. [Global Ecology and Biogeography](#)
- 2024 22. Baker E, M Dennis, **A Jensen**, K Garrett, C Cleveland, M Yabsley, J Brown, K Why, R Gerhold. Survey for Babesia spp. in wildlife in the eastern United States. International Journal for Parasitology: [Parasites and Wildlife](#)
- 2024 21. **Jensen A**, M Muthersbaugh, C Ruth, J Butfiloski, J Cantrell, J Adams, L Waits, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. Resource pulses shape seasonal and individual variation in the diet of an omnivorous carnivore. [Ecology and Evolution](#)
- 2024 20. **Jensen A**, M Cove, B Goldstein, R Kays, W McShea, K Pacifici, B Rooney, E Kierepka. Geographic barriers but not life history traits shape the phylogeography of North American mammals. [Global Ecology and Biogeography](#)
- 2024 19. **Jensen A**, S Bombaci. Shaping Scientists: How faculty values influence graduate student recruitment and diversity, equity, and inclusion. [BioScience](#)
- 2024 18. Saldo E, **A Jensen**, M Muthersbaugh, J Butfiloski, J Cantrell, J Kilgo, C Ruth, G Yarrow, D Jachowski. Unintended consequences of wildlife feeders on behavior of native and nonnative large mammals. [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#)
- 2024 17. Muthersbaugh M, E Saldo, **A Jensen**, J Cantrell, C Ruth, B Ross, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. Maternal Behaviors Influence Survival of Ungulate Neonates Under Heavy Predation Risk. [Ecology and Evolution](#)

- 2024 16. Kays R, ..., **A Jensen**, et al. Climate, food, and humans predict communities of larger mammals in the United States. [Diversity and Distributions](#)
- 2024 15. Goldstein B, **A Jensen**, R Kays, M Cove, W McShea, B Rooney, E Kierepka, K Pacifici. Guidelines for estimating occupancy from autocorrelated camera trap detections. [Methods in Ecology and Evolution](#)
- 2024 14. Jachowski D, S Harris, **A Jensen**, M Keating, M Muthersbaugh, D Nelson, B Pruitt, E Rosales, E Saldo, K Titus. Assessing the science to practice gap after 50 years of endangered species recovery efforts. [Biological Conservation](#)
- 2024 13. Burton C, ..., **A Jensen**, et al. Mammal responses to global changes in human activity vary by trophic group and landscape. [Nature Ecology and Evolution](#)
- 2023 12. **Jensen A**, E Saldo, Z Chapman, J Butfiloski, D Jachowski. Risk from a top predator and habitat complexity influences scavenging by smaller carnivores. [Ecosphere](#)
- 2023 11. Baker E, **A Jensen**, D Miller, K Garrett, C Cleveland, J Brown, K Can Why, R Gerhold. Hepatozoon spp. infection in wild canids in the eastern United States. [Parasites and Vectors](#)
- 2023 10. Marneweck C, S Harris, **A Jensen**, M Keating, M Muthersbaugh, D Nelson, E Rosales, E Saldo, K Titus, D Jachowski. Poleward expansion of turkey vultures (Cathartes aura) under future conditions. [Wilson Journal of Ornithology](#)
- 2023 9. Saldo E, **A Jensen**, M Muthersbaugh, J Butfiloski, J Cantrell, J Kilgo, C Ruth, G Yarrow, D Jachowski. 2023. Spatiotemporal overlap with invasive wild pigs (Sus scrofa) varies by species and season in a temperate ecosystem. [Ecosphere](#)
- 2022 8. **Jensen A**, C Marneweck, J Kilgo, D Jachowski. 2022. Coyote diet in North America: geographic and ecological patterns during range expansion. [Mammal Review](#)
- 2022 7. **Jensen A**, J Perrine, A Schaffner, R Brewster, A Giordano, M Robertson, N Siepel. 2022. Quantifying Wildlife Use of Escape Ramps along a Fenced Highway. [Human Wildlife Interactions](#)
- 2022 6. **Jensen A**, J Perrine, A Schaffner, R Brewster, A Giordano, M Robertson, N Siepel. 2022. Mammal use of undercrossings is influenced by openness and proximity to riparian corridors. [Wildlife Research](#)
- 2022 5. Kays R, ..., **A Jensen**, ..., W McShea. 2022. SNAPSHOT USA 2020: A second coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Ecology](#)
- 2022 4. Marneweck C, B Allen, A Butler, E Do Linh San, S Harris, **A Jensen**, M Muthersbaugh, E Saldo, M Somers, K Titus, A Vanak, D Jachowski. 2022. Middle out ecology: small carnivores as sentinels of global change. [Mammal Review](#)
- 2021 3. Cove M, ..., **A Jensen**, ..., W McShea. 2021. SNAPSHOT USA 2019: the first coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. [Ecology](#)
- 2021 2. **Jensen A**, S Bombaci, L Gigliotti, S Harris, C Marneweck, M Muthersbaugh, B Newman, S Rodriguez, E Saldo, K Shute, K Titus, A Williams, SW Yu, D Jachowski. 2021. Attracting diverse students to field experiences requires adequate pay, flexibility, and inclusion. [BioScience](#)

- 2021 1. Marneweck C, A Butler, L Gigliotti, S Harris, **A Jensen**, M Muthersbaugh, B Newman, E Saldo, K Shute, K Titus, SW Yu, D Jachowski. 2021. Shining the spotlight on non-apex carnivores: global status and threats. [Biological Conservation](#)

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 **A Jensen**. With wolves absent from most of eastern North America, can coyotes replace them? [The Conversation](#).
- 2023 **A Jensen**. In search of the ideal underpass for wild animals. [Transport Ecology](#).
- 2022 **A Jensen**, S Bombaci. Tipping the Scales: Better Pay, Flexibility and Inclusion Can Make Field Experiences More Accessible. The Wildlife Professional.
- 2021 S Bombaci, **A Jensen**. Field Experiences Shape Students' Careers, But They Need to Offer Better Pay, Flexibility, and Inclusion. [BioScience Blog](#)
- 2021 **A Jensen**. Who Can Work for Free? How Higher Pay Will Make the Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences More Inclusive. [SACNAS STEM + Culture Chronicle](#)

INVITED SEMINARS

- 2026 Guangxi University (China), School of Forestry
- 2026 Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment
- 2025 Clemson University, Forestry and Environmental Conservation
- 2025 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Biological Sciences
- 2025 North Carolina State University, Applied Ecology
- 2024 The Jones Center at Ichauway

BROADER IMPACTS

- 2026 How AI catalyzes new biodiversity science. Two presentations at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
- 2025 Outreach at local middle school and high schools. Presented on my background, what wildlife biologists do, and how camera traps work
- 2023- Outreach at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This occurs at both formal events and via unplanned interactions with museum guests
- 2020-2022 [YouTube Channel](#), Wildlife Research and Techniques
- 2021, 2022* *My Journey and Coyote Ecology in South Carolina*. Advanced Placement Environmental Sciences Guest Lecture, Emerald High School, Greenwood SC
*included a presentation by an undergraduate student
- 2020, 2023 Skype a Scientist. Zoom call with three classrooms in underserved cities where I highlighted what it is like to study wildlife for a living.
- 2017-2018 K-12 Scientific Outreach, San Luis Obispo CA

FUNDING AND AWARDS

- 2025 Envisioning Research Award (photo from fieldwork in Peru), Second Place, North Carolina State University, \$100

- 2023 Douglas R. Phillips Award for Graduate Students, Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, Clemson University
- 2022 Outstanding Graduate Student in Research Award, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Clemson University, \$500 honorarium
- 2022 Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Clemson University, \$10,000
- 2022 Clemson University Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$750
- 2021 Alexander Family Fellowship, Clemson University, \$1,623
- 2020 Frederick W. Kinard Fellowship, Clemson University, \$1,491
- 2020 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Conference Registration Scholarship, \$165
- 2019 Research Funding, The Wildlife Society Inclusion Diversity Equity and Awareness Working Group, \$200
- 2019 Research Funding, Clemson University Equity and Inclusion, \$200
- 2018 Clemson University Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$750
- 2018 Vertebrate Pest Conference Student Presentation Award, \$500
- 2018 Cal Poly Graduate Education Travel Award, \$500
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- 2017 Graduate Scholarship, Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation, \$3,000
- 2016 Aryan I. Roest Ecology Scholarship, Cal Poly Biological Sciences, \$3,000

TEACHING

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

- 2026 *Techniques in Wildlife Management*. Instructor of record for hands on course covering the methods we use to study and monitor wildlife. 24 students. Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
- 2024-2026 *Environmental Science Capstone*. Project mentor for targeted research on range dynamics, urban biodiversity, and environmental philanthropy. 11 students over three semesters. NC State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2024 *Mammalogy*. Co-lead instructor. Broad overview of mammal ecology, taxonomy, evolution, and behavior. 36 students. NC State University, Raleigh, NC
- 2019-2022 *Deer and Coyote Interactions*. Co-lead instructor. Research-based course for 4-6 undergraduate students per semester. 20 students in total who led 6 poster presentations.

- 2017 *Field Techniques in Wildlife Ecology*. Teaching assistant. Intensive field course with hands on learning and networking opportunities. 16 students in total. California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo
- 2016-2018 *Introduction to Ecology and Evolution Lab*. Teaching assistant. Practical course on data collection and analysis in ecology and evolution. 168 students in total. California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo
- 2016-2018 *Organismal Form and Function Lab*. Teaching assistant. Principles of animal and plant physiology. 96 students in total. California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

GUEST LECTURES

- 2024, 2026 *Shared Planet: Urban Ecology and Environmental Justice*. Conservation Biology, North Carolina State University
- 2024, 2025 *Coyote ecology and natural history*. Vertebrate Natural History, North Carolina State University
- 2022 *The Nature Gap: How Data and Maps can be Used to Identify and Reduce Inequities in Access to Nature*. Data and Maps for Social Justice Workshop, Clemson University
- 2022 *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Wildlife Management*, DEI in Natural Resources Course, Clemson University
- 2021 *Coyote Ecology in South Carolina*, Applied Geospatial Information Course, Western North Carolina University
- 2019 *GPS Collar Software*, Wildlife Techniques Course, Clemson University
- 2017 *How Roads Impact Wildlife*, Conservation Ecology Course, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo
- 2015 *Parasitoid Wasps as a Biocontrol Agent for an Important Citrus Pest*, Ecology Course, University of Redlands

COURSEWORK

Teaching Undergraduate Science (3 credits); Preparing for the Professoriate (3 credits); Communicating Biology to General Audiences (4 credits); Engineering and Science Education Seminar (1 credit)

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Classroom and Lab Management; Inclusive Teaching; Fostering an Inclusive Classroom; Academic Continuity; Student Mental Health; Gen Z Students

MENTORSHIP

STUDENT MENTEES (12)

- 2024-2025 Nubia Garcia Carro. NC State University undergraduate. Work study student on armadillo range expansion project.
- 2023-2025 Kylan Rivera. NC State University undergraduate and Doris Dukes Conservation Program Scholar. Independent research project on carnivore dietary approaches project.

- 2022- Sean Kiernan. Clemson University undergraduate. Independent study project on coyote ecology. Sean is first author on a related forthcoming publication.
- 2023-2024 Yakira Jackson. NC State University undergraduate. Work study student on mammal range expansion project. I also provided professional guidance and support after her employment ended.
- 2021-2022 Elizabeth Nowlin. Field technician during my PhD. I also provided professional guidance and support after her employment ended.
- 2021-2022 Keller Brogdon. Clemson University undergraduate. Summer intern on coyote diet lab work. I also provided professional guidance and support after his employment ended.
- 2021-2022 Vanessa Patch. Clemson University undergraduate. Summer intern on coyote ecology. I also provided professional guidance and support after her employment ended.
- 2021 Katrina Sneed. Clemson University undergraduate. Summer intern on coyote diet lab work.
- 2020-2021 Zoey Chapman. Clemson University undergraduate. Summer intern on coyote ecology. I also provided professional guidance and support after her employment ended.
- 2019 Erin McDaniel. Clemson University undergraduate. I provided professional guidance and support. Recipient of South Carolina Wildlife Society's Outstanding Undergraduate Award 2020.
- 2019-2022 Susana Gonzalez. Cal Poly undergraduate. I provided professional guidance and support.
- 2017 Sofia Carrillo. Allen Hancock College undergraduate and Bridges to the Baccalaureate Scholar. Summer intern on road ecology. I also provided professional guidance and support after her employment ended.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2018 Graduate Intern, Cal Poly Science and Mathematics Academic Advising Center. Met with students to discuss future goals and class schedules. Served as an academic coach to five students.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

LEADERSHIP ROLES

- 2023- *Member*, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-bias Committee, American Society of Mammalogists
- 2021-2022 *Vice President/Acting President*, Latinx Graduate Student Association, Clemson University
- 2020-2021 *Lead finance committee member*, Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month, Clemson University. Raised \$14,000 from campus departments and colleges
- 2021 *Discussion Facilitator*, Women's Roundtable: Empowering Women in STEM, Clemson University
- 2020-2022 *Co-chair and member*, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Natural Resources Graduate Student Association, Clemson University

- 2020-2021 *Panelist and moderator*, Grad School Chisme: Graduate School Panel Aimed at Latinx Undergraduate Students, Clemson University
- 2017 *Mentor*, Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- 2011-2013 *Commissioner of Labor*, Office of the Student Body President, UC Santa Barbara

LEARNING

- 2022 Virginia Tech Future Faculty Diversity Program, invited participant
- 2021 Natural Resource Conservation on Indigenous People's Land Course, Clemson University
- 2021 Intercultural Development Inventory
- 2020 *Workshop Attendee*, Enhancing Indigeneity on Campus, Clemson University
- 2019 LGBTQ+ Ally Training, Clemson University

SERVICE

LEADERSHIP ROLES

- 2019-2020 *Founder and Chair*, Professional Development Committee, Natural Resources Graduate Student Association, Clemson University
- 2018-2019 *Chair*, Undergraduate Outreach Committee, Natural Resources Graduate Student Association, Clemson University
- 2018-2020 *Graduate Advisor*, Clemson University Chapter of the Wildlife Society

WORKSHOPS FACILITATED

- 2024 *Jobs and Graduate School*. Organized and moderated a panel for undergraduates working in our lab group. North Carolina State University
- 2022 *Publishing in Natural Resources*. Organized and moderated a panel for graduate students featuring three department faculty members. Clemson University
- 2019-2020 *How to Get the Most out of Scientific Conferences*. Co-created and delivered workshop to natural resources undergraduate and graduate students. Clemson University
- 2019 *How to Make Engaging Scientific Posters*. Co-created and delivered workshop to natural resources graduate students. Clemson University
- 2019 *How to Write a Research Proposal*. Co-created and delivered workshop to natural resources graduate students. Clemson University
- 2019 *How to Make a Quality Resume*. Co-created and delivered workshop to natural resources undergraduate students. Clemson University
- 2019 *How to Find a Job in the Environmental Sciences*. Co-created and delivered workshop to natural resources undergraduate students. Clemson University
- 2018 *Should You Go to Graduate School? And When?* Co-created and delivered workshop to

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Journal of Applied Ecology

Ecology

People and Nature

Ecology and Evolution

Journal of Mammalogy

Southeastern Naturalist

Integrative and Comparative Biology

Wildlife Biology

Food Webs

The Stacks

Urban Ecology

Frontiers and Ecology and Evolution

Northwest Science

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

HOME CONFERENCES

The Wildlife Society

2023 – poster presentation

2022 – oral presentation

2021 – oral presentation

2020 – oral presentation

2019 – poster presentation

American Society of Mammalogists

2026 – oral presentation

2025 – oral presentation

2024 – oral presentation

2023 – oral presentation

2022 – oral presentation

2021 – oral presentation

2019 – poster presentation

OTHER CONFERENCES

Species on the Move

2026 – poster presentation

Landscape Ecology

2025 – oral presentation

Society of Conservation Biology

2018 – oral presentation

National Diversity in STEM Conference

2024 – oral presentation

2021 – oral presentation