

## Vice Chair Nominees

### Max Larreur

I currently work for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and I'm located in Fort Myers, Florida. I've been working for the agency for almost a year now as a shorebird predation management biologist. I work on a more coastal environment but much of my past work has been within the wetland ecosystem. I received my B.S. in Biology – Emphasis in Ecology and Conservation from Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana in 2015. During my time there I was able to secure a position with the Forbes Biological Station in Havana, Illinois as a waterbird research technician. As part of a team I worked on documenting waterbird nesting within “hemi-marsh” and “persistent emergent” vegetation on, at the time of this project, the largest wetland restoration project in the US (Emiquon Preserve). I've been a shorebird monitoring intern down in Sonora, Mexico documenting shorebird species richness and raptor nest success throughout estuaries along the Sonoran coast. Afterwards, in 2016, I started my masters at Kansas State University with my research being conducted in Voyageurs National Park, International Falls, Minnesota. I looked at semi-aquatic mammal occupancy throughout the national park and how their distributions were occupying the landscape with an invasive hybrid cattail species (*Typha glauca*) taking over wetland habitat.

I believe that my past experiences within wetland research but also engaging with different audiences has helped me grow as a wildlife professional and I think this could be useful for the Wetland Working Group. I have a passion for education, knowledge, and the effective dissemination of information across a wide variety of people. I think the sharing of all new and past research, policy, and conservation being done within wetland ecosystems can help shine a light on what is being done to better this extremely important ecosystem but also learn from the past and how we can use that to inform plans for the future. I hope to bring new insight into the working group and help out in any area possible if chosen for the vice-president spot. I also believe that I could learn a lot being in this role and being involved with other working professionals. I appreciate everyone's time and for being considered for the position. Stay safe everyone!



## Jay VonBank

Jay VonBank is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate and Jess Y. Womack II Fellow in Wetlands and Wetland Bird Research with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University - Kingsville. He is currently studying movement ecology of Greater White-fronted Geese of the Midcontinent North American population throughout their range and annual cycle. Jay received a BS in Aquatic Biology from Bemidji State University where he was first exposed to the diverse wetland ecosystems of northern Minnesota. He then began his MS degree with the Illinois Natural History Survey and Western Illinois University focusing on invasive aquatic plants in the Illinois River system, with emphasis on dispersal vectors and mechanisms, distributions, and influence on native aquatic plants and wetland-dependent wildlife. Jay is currently involved in several wetland-centric projects including delineating spatial use and influence of freshwater ponds on shoal grass overgrazing by redhead ducks in the Laguna Madre, and determining wetland characteristics influencing use by white-fronted geese across Mexico. Jay's research aim's to continue integrating waterfowl and wetland science to develop applied solutions to ecological problems. Jay would like to contribute to the Wetlands Working Group by continuing to develop the group's member interaction and recruitment through new ideas or activities such as monthly brown-bag lunch webinars, developing a membership directory or forum to facilitate inter-group contact and discussions, or developing a student-mentor program within the group to help students continue to expand their wetland knowledge and/or professional development and network from experts in our field. In his free time, Jay enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, and traveling to new places with his wife.



## **Treasurer/Secretary Nominee**

### **Adonia Henry**

Adonia Henry is a wetland ecologist with over 15 years of experience in natural resource management, ecosystem restoration, monitoring, and applied research. She worked for the State of Utah DNR, University of Montana, Ducks Unlimited, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to founding a small woman-owned business, Scaup & Willet LLC, focused on natural resource conservation. She has worked on many wetland restoration and management projects throughout the western United States and Hawaii. She has provided technical assistance on wetland ecology principles including abiotic drivers and biology of endangered and migratory birds, aquatic vegetation. She co-instructs wetland ecology and management workshops and has collaborated on various hydrogeomorphic and historical ecology assessments. Adonia has a B.A. in Geography and Northern Studies from Middlebury College and a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from the University of Missouri. She currently volunteers as the editor for the WWG newsletter and previously served as Chair. She enjoys slogging through wetlands for work and fun, as well as hiking, backpacking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

