



ASHLEE MINOR

Wildlife Ecologist

Ashlee Minor, Wildlife Ecologist with the Institute, brings over ten years of expertise in wildlife, community, and restoration ecology research. Ashlee's research focused on wildlife responses to habitat restoration in wetland, grassland, and barrier island ecosystems. While much of her research has been in the realm of avian ecology, she has experience working with a variety of different taxa, including plants, arthropods, fish, and small mammals. Ashlee also has a strong background in field data collection and data analysis, as well as technical writing and communication skills.

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Wildlife Ecologist

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Wildlife Ecology

Community Ecology

Restoration Ecology

Population Modeling

Data Analysis

PROJECTS

Avian Monitoring

Avian Guidance

Marine Mammal Restoration Strategy

EDUCATION

PhD, Zoology - Community Ecology, Southern Illinois University

MS, Marine and Environmental Biology, Nicholls State University

BS, Biological Science, Southeastern Louisiana

Before joining the institute, Ashlee was a postdoctoral researcher at The University of Georgia, working to produce population estimates and landscape-level predictive modeling for colonial nesting wading birds in Georgia. Ashlee also has extensive teaching experience at the undergraduate level, including coursework in Coastal Management, Field Botany, Plant Ecology, and Avian Ecology.

Ashlee received her bachelor's degree in biology from Southeastern Louisiana University, her MS in Marine and Environmental Biology from Nicholls State University, and her PhD in Zoology from Southern Illinois University.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025–Present: Wildlife Ecologist, The Water Institute

2024: Postdoctoral Research Assistant, University of Georgia

2019–2024: Instructor of Biology, Eckerd College

2018–2019: Adjunct Faculty, Eckerd College

2015–2022: Research Assistant & Doctoral Candidate, Southern Illinois University

2018: Rooftop Nesting Bird Technician, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

2013-2014: Graduate Research, Field, and Teaching Assistant, Nicholls State University

2014: Avian Ecology Intern, National Audubon Society

2012-2013: Undergraduate Research Assistant, Southeastern Louisiana University



SELECTED PROJECTS

Georgia Wading Bird Population Surveys. *Georgia Department of Natural Resources and University of Georgia* (Ongoing). Postdoctoral Researcher. Data and analysis for this project will produce estimates for colonial nesting wading bird populations and direct future aerial survey efforts at the local and region levels.

Grassland Faunal Responses to High-Diversity Restoration. *USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, Kulm Wetland Management District, ND Game and Fish, and Southern Illinois University* Doctoral Researcher. Land managers in the prairie pothole region use data and information provided from this project to anticipate wildlife outcomes to reseeding restoration strategies.

Forested Freshwater Wetland Responses to Long-term Municipal Effluent Discharge. *Nicholls State University, City of Thibodaux, Louisiana.* Data and analyses from this project are used to inform future planning and management of assimilation wetlands in the state of Louisiana.

PUBLICATIONS

Minor, A.K and E.W. Eichholz. 2024. Small Mammal Communities respond to Vegetation Diversity and Structure in Native and Restored Northern Mixed-Prairies. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 88: e2258.

Minor, A.K and E.W. Eichholz. 2021. Vegetation richness, diversity, and structure influence arthropod communities of native and restored northern mixed prairies. *Restoration Ecology* 29(7): e13407.

Nepshinsky, M., S. Taylor, J.S. Liechty, A.K. Minor, E.D. Windhoffer, and A.R. Pierce. 2021. Morphometric sex determination of breeding adult Royal *Thalasseus maximus* and Sandwich Terns *T. sandvicensis* in Louisiana. *Marine Ornithology* 49: 127-132.

Rolland, V., M. Nepshinsky, M., E.D. Windhoffer, J.S. Liechty, A.K. Minor, & A.R. Pierce. 2020. Foraging Areas and Movements of Royal Tern *Thalasseus Maximus* Breeding at The Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge Louisiana. *Marine Ornithology* 48:164-168. Minor, 5

Liechty, J.S., A.K. Minor, M. Nepshinsky, A.R. Pierce. 2017. Apparent survival of Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) and Sandwich Tern (*T. sandvicensis*) at Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge, Louisiana. *Marine Ornithology* 45(1): 83-88.

Windhoffer, E. D., T.M. Owen, J.S. Liechty, A. K. Minor, D. K. Curtiss, M. Nepshinsky, and A. R. Pierce. 2017. Dynamic Breeding Attributes of Gull-Billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) Populations on a Barrier Island System in the Gulf of Mexico. *Waterbirds* 40(4): 390-395.