

SARAH NASON

SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR | WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a scientist with a passion for creative ways of communicating data and scientific information. I believe that the impact of research can reach new heights when findings are communicated in an accessible and engaging way that brings important, credible messages to life. As a biologist with a background in wildlife ecology and conservation, I am especially passionate about projects where I can use my communication and analysis skills to create positive changes for wildlife and the environment.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2019 - Feb 2020** **Ecologist and Science Communicator | Fuse Consulting, Ltd.**
- Specialized in translating technical scientific language and concepts into accessible, engaging written products; responsible for leading writing and copy editing of projects
 - Developed concept art, illustrations, and scientific figures
 - Led and managed projects and communications with clients
- Oct 2018 - present** **Research Consultant | Calgary Zoological Society**
- Lead author on a systematic literature review of insect conservation translocations
 - Currently performing data analysis, developing figures, and writing main text of a manuscript in preparation for publication
 - Contract was awarded to extend work that I began as an intern during my M.Sc.
- Nov 2015 - Mar 2016** **Haast Kiwi Intern | Department of Conservation (New Zealand)**
- Learned wildlife management skills for conservation of Haast tokoeka kiwi birds
 - Worked in steep, isolated region requiring helicopter access and backcountry navigation
 - Managed public outreach program for local population of Fiordland crested penguins

EDUCATION

- Sep 2016 - Aug 2018** **M.Sc. in Biology | Université du Québec à Montréal | GPA 4.2/4.3**
- Independently designed and completed a field- and lab-based study in the field of evolutionary genetics under the supervision of Dr. Clint Kelly
 - Thesis topic: The maintenance of alternative mating strategies in Wellington tree weta
 - Awarded a certificate in Zoo Conservation Science by NSERC ReNewZoo program
 - Demonstrated leadership as Student Representative on ReNewZoo Program Committee and Content Manager for Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science blog
- Sep 2011 - May 2015** **B.Sc. Hons. in Animal Biology | University of Alberta | GPA 3.9/4.0**
- Gained competency in a variety of biology topics, including statistics, genetics, ecology, evolutionary biology, and programming for data analysis and visualization (R)
 - Thesis topic: Effects of personality on reproductive success and home range size of North American red squirrels (supervisor: Dr. Stan Boutin)
 - Demonstrated leadership as Co-founder/President of a student society (zoology club) and helping orient/guide new students as a Science Mentor for the Faculty of Science



SKILLS AND COURSES

- Statistical programming in R, including data structuring/querying (Tidyverse), linear modeling (lmer), and data visualization (ggplot)
 - » *Courses: R workshop series (Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science)*
- Graphic design and illustration in Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign)
 - » *Courses: Essential Illustrator 2019 Training (lynda.com), Illustrator for Infographics (lynda.com)*
- Advanced scientific and technical writing, grant writing, and copy editing
 - » *Courses: The Keys to Effective Editing (gale.com)*
- Basic HTML and CSS
- Content management and growing followers of social media and blog feeds
- Facilitation and presentation of workshops and synthesis of workshop outcomes
- Bilingual language skills, with fluency in English (native speaker) and French (second language)
- Field- and lab-based skills for wildlife studies, including radio telemetry, small mammal handling, backcountry navigation, microsatellite genotyping, and population analyses (VORTEX, CERVUS)
 - » *Courses: Genetic Analysis of Populations (U of A), Bioinformatics (U of A), ReNewZoo 101 (Laurentian University)*

RECENT PROJECTS

- Lifeology blog: ideation and writing of blog content for a community-based website that helps foster collaboration among artists, storytellers, and scientists
 - » *Example: [Budgeting for arts and communications in scientific grants](#)*
- fRI Research Wetland Crossings Report: literature review, synthesis of interview results, writing, copy editing, concept art, project management, chairing of meetings, and final presentation to stakeholders
 - » tinyurl.com/FSCPWetlandCrossings
- SINEWS Briefing Package: research, project management, conducting and synthesizing interviews, writing, and copy editing for the Sistering Indigenous and Western Science (SINEWS) project
 - » *Contact me for a copy*
- Beyond Beetle field guide: background research, writing, copy editing, and concept art
 - » tinyurl.com/BeyondBeetleGuide
- Wildlife Monitoring Report (client confidential): background research, writing, copy editing, concept art, and data visualization
 - » *Ongoing project; final product not yet available*
- Landscapes in Motion: writing and copy editing of blog posts and management of Twitter feed (Jan 2019 - Feb 2020)
 - » landscapesinmotion.ca | twitter.com/landscapesinmtn
- Fuse Fact Fridays: series of infographic-style illustrations for Fuse Consulting Ltd. Twitter feed
 - » sarahnason.ca/art
- Infographics Workshops: presentation and facilitation of a series of infographics workshops for Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada (French and English)

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Invited to speak on a career panel for zoo conservation graduate students and present research results at Annual Meeting of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (\$300 honorarium), Sep. 2019
- Led the coordination of a multi-company training session on working effectively with Indigenous peoples (provided by Indigenous Corporate Training, Inc.) with all-Indigenous service providers (hosted at Yellowhead Tribal College and catered by Native Delights), July 2019
- Awarded NSERC CREATE ReNewZoo scholarship (\$17 500/year), 2016 - 2018
- Awarded Entomology Society of Canada Graduate Research Travel Award (\$2000), May 2017

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Publications

- **Nason, S.**, Kelly, C. D., Bricchieri-Colombi, T., Lloyd, N., & Moehrensclager, A. (2020). *Maximizing the effectiveness of qualitative systematic reviews: a case study on terrestrial arthropod translocations*. Manuscript in preparation.
- **Nason, S.**, & Kelly, C. D. (2020). *Equal fitness among alternative mating strategies*. Manuscript in preparation.
- **Nason, S.**, & Kelly, C. D. (2019). *Sex differences in Bateman gradients and opportunity for selection in a harem polygynous insect*. Manuscript in review.
- Haines, J., **Nason, S.**, Skurdal, A., Bouchier, T., & Hämäläinen, A. (2019). *Sex- and context- specific effects of personality on fitness but no link to life history in red squirrels*. Manuscript in review.
- Tierney, K., Welsh, P. O., Mills, M., **Nason, S.**, Barreda, D., & Paszkowski, C. A. 2017. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and wastewater ponds, Part II: Developmental, physiological, morphological, and behavioural effects of ingestion of secondary clarified effluent water. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety* 143: 336 - 343.

Presentations

- **Nason, S.**, & Gillies, C. 2019. *Recommendations for a Wetland Crossings Monitoring Protocol*. Oral presentation, Alberta Roadway Watercourse Crossing Inspection Manual – Review Workshop, Edmonton, AB.
- **Nason, S.** 2019. *Current status and future prospects of terrestrial arthropod conservation translocations*. Oral presentation, Annual Meeting of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, Calgary, AB.
- **Nason, S.** 2018. *Insect Conservation Translocations: Current Status and Future Prospects*. Poster presentation, Association of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- **Nason, S.** 2018. *Conserving Evolutionary Potential in the Wellington Tree Weta*. Oral presentation, Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Annual Meeting, Guelph, ON.
- **Nason, S.** 2017. *La sélection sexuelle et l'influence de l'environnement : implications sur les translocations de Wellington tree weta*. Oral presentation, Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science Annual Conference, Montreal, QC.
- **Nason, S.** 2015. *Reproductive Success in Male Red Squirrels: the Role of Personality*. Oral presentation, R.E. Peter Biology Conference, Edmonton, AB.

References available upon request.

