



EVA D. WINDHOFFER, MS

Avian Ecologist

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Avian Ecologist

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Coastal ecology
Ornithology
Wildlife biology
Project management
Data management
Technical writing

EDUCATION

MS, Marine and Environmental Biology, Nicholls State University, 2017
BS, Natural Resources Management, University of Maryland, College Park, 2011

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

Communicating with Tact and Professionalism (SkillPath)
Professional in Project Management by Global Association for Quality Management (GAQM)
Science of Oil Spills (NOAA)

AWARDS

Dorothy Dorsett Brown Innovation in Science Award, 1st Place. 12/2024

Eva D. Windhoffer, avian ecologist, focuses on providing technical support for avian research projects for the Louisiana and Regionwide Technical Implementation Groups (TIGs), project management of Research and Development (R&D) projects for The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), and coordination of the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE). She has extensive experience as a field biologist monitoring coastal waterbirds and conducting habitat surveys. Eva's research interests include coastal restoration, wildlife and avian ecology, and project management.

Prior to joining The Water Institute, Eva was a coastal resources scientist with the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) where she helped conducted Natural Resource Damage Assessments and implement and monitor coastal restoration projects.

Eva received her bachelor's degree from University of Maryland, College Park in Natural Resources Management and then received her master's degree from Nicholls State University in 2017 in Marine and Environmental Biology, where she studied the nest success of breeding waterbirds on Louisiana's barrier islands. She has certificates in Project Management, Science of Oil Spills (NOAA), Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (NOAA), and Incident Command System (FEMA).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020–Present: Avian Ecologist, The Water Institute

2017–2020: Coastal Resource Scientist 3, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

2015–2017: Research Assistant / Graduate Teaching Assistant, Nicholls State University

2015: Biological Technician/Contractor, Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program

2014: Biological Science Technician, Stephen F. Austin State University

2013–2014: Exotic Plant Management Team Intern, National Park Service

2013: Marsh Bird Technician, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

2012: USFWS Biology Intern, Edwin B. Forsyth National Wildlife Refuge



SELECTED PROJECTS

Barrier Island Habitat Assessment for Coastal Waterbirds. *Brown Foundation (Ongoing)*. Lead Investigator. Barrier islands are ecologically and structurally important features for coastal bird communities. This project is developing a machine learning workflow that can be used to process and analyze bird and habitat data from aerial imagery and fill in associated data gaps for restoration design. This is a cross-disciplinary effort providing a novel approach to inform barrier island restoration and bird conservation activities in Louisiana.

Gulf of Mexico Colonial Waterbird Data Management. *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (Ongoing)*. Technical Support. The collection and analysis of aerial photographic surveys have been used to monitor shrub- and select ground-nesting waterbird species across the GOM. This project entails data management of >25,000 photos and associated databases through the development of an online portal.

RESTORE Act Center for Excellence of Louisiana. *Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (Ongoing)*. Program Coordinator. The mission of the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) is to provide research directly relevant to implementation of Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan by administering a competitive grants program and providing the appropriate coordination and oversight support to ensure that success metrics are tracked and achieved.

Maximizing Habitat Benefits for Bird Nesting from Habitat Restoration. *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (2020–2023)*. Technical Support. This project involves the development of a coastal ecosystem restoration and monitoring guidance document to create/improve bird nesting habitat. For aspects of different habitat restoration projects (e.g. barrier island restoration or marsh creation), design elements with potential flexibility under the control of the project team were identified. It is anticipated that this document will inform future restoration project design to increase benefits through the construction and enhancement of preferential avian habitat.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Windhoffer, Eva D. et al. 2024. Leveraging co-production within ecosystem restoration to maximize benefits to coastal birds. *Journal of Environmental Management* 360.
2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2024. Installations, Energy, and Environment Technology Innovation Strategy. (Supporting Author)
3. Deepwater Horizon Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group. 2023. Guidance for Coastal Ecosystem Restoration and Monitoring to Create or Improve Bird-Nesting Habitat. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (Supporting Author)
4. Ehrenwerth, J. R. et al. 2022. Enhancing Benefits Evaluation for Water Resources Projects: Towards a More Comprehensive Approach for Nature-Based Solutions. *Evolution of Benefits Evaluation and Prioritization of Water Resources Projects*.
5. Windhoffer, E.D. and A.R. Pierce. 2021. Video monitoring of waterbird colonies reveals novel predator. *Waterbirds*. 44(1).
6. Windhoffer, E.D. 2021. Natural history notes: *Nerodia rhombifer* (Diamond-backed Watersnake). albinism. *Herpetological Review*.
7. Windhoffer, E. et al. 2017. Variability in Gull-Billed Tern breeding parameters at the Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge, Louisiana, USA. *Waterbirds* (40)4.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. 2024: Windhoffer, Eva D. The Water Institute. An overview of the Guidance Document for Avian Habitat Restoration and Monitoring. CPRA Coastal Week, Virtual.
2. 2023: Windhoffer, Eva D. The Water Institute. An overview of the Guidance Document for Avian Habitat Restoration and Monitoring. State of the Coast, New Orleans, Louisiana.
3. 2022: Windhoffer, Eva D. The Water Institute. An Overview of the guidance document for avian habitat restoration and monitoring. *Restore Americas Estuaries*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
4. 2019: Windhoffer, Eva D. LOSCO. Oil spills and birds: from response to restoration. *BTNEP Management Conference*, Thibodaux, Louisiana.
5. 2019: Windhoffer, Eva D. and Gina Saizan. LOSCO. Oil spills and birds—response to restoration. *Sea Grant Birds & Oil Spills Workshop*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
6. 2018: Windhoffer, Eva D. LOSCO. From response to restoration—three Louisiana coastal oil spills that lead to one restoration project. *Clean Gulf*, New Orleans, Louisiana.