

Ryan Wagner

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Conservation biologist with 7+ years of experience in data collection, analysis, manuscript writing, and publishing. Proficient in statistical methodologies (Bayesian and frequentist frameworks) and software including R, ESRI ArcGIS, and Microsoft Office. Skilled in science communication and outreach through photojournalism, public speaking, podcasting, writing, and social media.

EDUCATION

Washington State University (Expected 2027)

Ph.D., Biology

GPA: 4.0

The Ohio State University

MSc, Environment and Natural Resources (2023)

GPA: 4.0

Ohio University

BSc with Honors, Wildlife and Conservation Biology (2020)

GPA: 3.8

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

- 2024** **Washington State University**, 3-minute Thesis Competition Second Place
- Washington State University Vancouver**, 3-minute Thesis Competition First Place
- 2020** **Outdoor Writers of Ohio**, Scholarship
- 2019** **Izaak Walton League of America**, National Conservation Scholarship Awardee
- Ohio University**, Student Research Expo Poster 1st Place
- Outdoor Writers of Ohio**, Scholarship
- OCEES Poster Session**, Honorable Mention
- 2018** **Outdoor Writers of Ohio**, Scholarship
- 2016** **Izaak Walton League of America Medina Chapter**, Continuing Conservational Award & Scholarship
- North Olmsted Sportsman Scholarship**

GRANTS

- 2024** **Ohio State University**, Ray Travel Grant – \$1,000
- 2020** **Ohio State University**, Minigrant – \$300

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- 5. Wagner, R. B., & Peterman, W. E.** (2024) Population viability analysis for the common mudpuppy: Assessing potential impacts of TFM lampricide bycatch. *Animal Conservation*.
- 4. Gade, M.R., Gould, P.R., Wilk, A.J., Donlon, K.C., Brown, M.L., Behan, M.L., Roseman, M.A., Tutterow, A.M., Amber, E.D., Wagner, R.B. and Hoffman, A.S.,** 2023. Demography and space-use of Eastern Red-backed Salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) between mature and successional forests. *Ecology and Evolution*, 13(1), p.e9764.

3. Bryant, A. R., Gabor, C. R., Swartz, L. K., **Wagner, R.**, Cochrane, M. M., & Lowe, W. H. (2022). Differences in Corticosterone Release Rates of Larval Spring Salamanders (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) in Response to Native Fish Presence. *Biology*, 11(4), 484.
2. **Wagner, R. B.**, Brune, C. R., & Popescu, V. D. (2021). Snakes on a lane: Road type and edge habitat predict hotspots of snake road mortality. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 61, 125978.
1. Weigand, N. M., **Wagner, R. B.**, Tonra, C. M., & Popescu, V. D. (2019). Proximity to highways has limited influence on space use and physiology of terrestrial testudines. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 65(5), 80. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-019-1315-1>

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

- 2024** **American Institute of Biological Sciences**, Biology in Pictures 3rd Place
North American Nature Photography Association, Top 100
Nature and Humans Photo Competition, Conservation Photography Thematic Series Finalist
British Ecological Society, Capturing Ecology overall student category winner for people and nature & highly commended for Ecologists in Action
MontPhoto Contest, Nature Portfolio Honorable Mention
Mangrove Photography Awards, Conservation Stories Finalist
BMC Ecology and Evolution/BMC Zoology, Image Competition Research in Action Best in Category
Nature Working Scientists Photo Competition Runner Up
- 2023** **North American Nature Photography Association**, Conservation First Runner Up
North American Nature Photography Association, Birds Top 250
The Big Picture Competition, Finalist Human/Nature
North American Nature Photography Association, College Photography Scholarship
- 2018** **Ohio Division of Natural Resources**, 2018 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp 1st Place & 3rd Place

PHOTOJOURNALISM PUBLICATIONS

Published in: *BBC Wildlife Magazine* (2024, 2025), *National Wildlife Magazine* (2025), *The Guardian* (2023), and numerous issues of *Wild Ohio* (2022).

PRESENTATIONS & OUTREACH *invited talks

- Wagner, R.B.**, Putting the Frogs Back: Cascades Frog Reintroductions in Lassen Volcanic National Park
- Lassen Volcanic National Park Juneteenth Research Symposium (2024)
- Wagner, R.B.**, Stopping Extinction: Tale of Two Frogs.
- Washington State University Three Minute Thesis Competition (2024)
 - Washington State University Vancouver Three Minute Thesis Competition (2024)
- Wagner, R.B.**, Visual Storytelling: How Photography can Benefit Conservation.
- Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference* (2023)
- Wagner, R.B.**, Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander.

- Master's Defense, School of Environment and Natural Resources (2023)
- School of Environment and Natural Resources Student Research Symposium (2023)
- The Wildlife Society Conference (poster; 2022)
- Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (poster; 2022)
- Ohio Natural History Conference/Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (poster; 2022)
- Conservation Conference (poster; 2022)
- Vernal Poolooza Conference (poster; 2022)

Wagner, R.B., A Year in Columbus from an Amphibian's Perspective.

- Ecology on Tap (2022)

Wagner, R.B., Snakes on a lane: Road type and edge habitat predict hotspots of snake road mortality.

- Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference (2020)
- Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster; 2019)

Wagner, R.B., Evaluating the Impacts of Predatory Brook Trout on Corticosterone Levels in a Stream Salamander.

- Hubbard Brook REU Symposium (2019)

Wagner, R.B., Birds of Hawaii.

- Jackson County Library (2019)*
- Athens Area Birders Club (2019)*
- Ohio University Wildlife Club (2018)

Wagner, R.B., Evaluating Potential Effects of Proximity to Roads in a Road-naïve Population of Turtles.

- Ohio University and John Carroll University Herpetology Symposium (2017)
- Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster; 2017)
- Ohio Natural History Conference (poster; 2017)

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student, Biology

Washington State University (2023–Present)

- Designed and implemented reintroduction experiments, statistical analyses, and publications.

Scientific Aid

California Division of Fish and Wildlife (2023)

- Conducted amphibian surveys and invasive fish removal in remote backcountry.

North American Nature Photography Association College Scholarship

NANPA Summit (2023)

- Trained in photography and filmmaking techniques.
- Published Tucson Audubon 'Diversity in Birders' Video

Master's Student, Environment and Natural Resources

Ohio State University (2020–2023)

- Led research on pesticide impacts on mudpuppy populations.
- Published findings in *Animal Conservation*.

Contributing Writer and Photographer Wild Ohio Magazine

Ohio Department of Wildlife (2021–2022)

- Conceptualized, interviewed, and wrote 500-word stories about nature and science in Ohio.

Field Technician Road Mortality

Ohio University (2017–2020)

- Conducted road mortality surveys and pit fall surveys

Research Experience for Undergraduates

University of Montana, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (2019)

- Capture-mark-recapture and telemetry of salamanders.
- Conceptualized and carried out independent project on salamander chronic stress.

Field Technician Eastern Hellbender Conservation

Ohio University (2018)

- Capture-mark-recapture, telemetry, deployed nest-boxes, and head-start reintroductions.

Field Technician Box Turtle Road Ecology

Ohio University (2017–2018)

- Coordinated and led teams in rugged terrain and oversee data collection.
- Radio telemetry and stress hormone bioassay.

Videographer

Cleveland Metroparks (2015)

- Interviewed and filmed Cleveland Metroparks naturalists to create “Creature Features” for Cleveland Metroparks’ social media accounts.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Washington State University

Teaching Assistant General Ecology (2025)

Raise Research Mentor (2024)

Guest Lecture Herpetology (2024)

Guest Lecture Organismal Biology (2023)

Teaching Assistant Organismal Biology (2023)

Ohio University

Undergraduate Research Supervisor (2020–2023)

Teaching Assistant Conservation Biology (2019)

Teaching Assistant Ornithology (2019)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Washington State University: Spatial Ecology, Synthesis and Communication of Independent Research, Grant Writing, Foundations of Ecology, Amphibian Biology Seminar, Time Series Analysis, Behavioral Ecology, Fundamentals of Teaching

Ohio State University: Landscape Ecology, Aquatic Ecology, Research Proposal Symposium, Statistics, Applied Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling, Animal Movement Ecology, Telemetry Methods, Design Natural Resources Study, Intro to R in Environmental Sciences, Environment and Natural Resources Seminar

Ohio University: Herpetology, Univariate Statistics, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Animal Conservation Biology, Wildlife Habitat Management, Field Ecology, Ornithology, Ichthyology, Animal Ecology, Ohio Flora, Plant Structure & Development

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TRAINING

The Building a Community of Equity Program (BaCE) Professional Development Certificate Program (2023–2024).

The BaCE Accessibility and Universal Design Certificate Program (2023–2024)

Key courses: Exploring Culturally Safe Dialogues, Representation through Radical Resistance, Building Belonging, Exploring the Lived Experiences of First-Generation College Graduates of Color, Universal Design for Learning

MEDIA COVERAGE

Research–Wildlife Professional, Peak Your Interest Podcast, Ohio State University SENR News, Ohio University Alumni News, Ecology on Tap, Rust Belt Arcana (paperback), OU Arts & Sciences Forum, The Athens News

Photography–Print and Online: *CNN*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Sky News*, *New Scientist*, Petapixel

PEER REVIEW

Herpetology Conservation Biology, *Hydrobiologia*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Associate Editor, *Herpetological Review* (2024–Present)

Vice President, Graduate Student Association of Vancouver (2024–Present)

Board Member, Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver (2024–Present)

Member, North American Nature Photography Association (2023–Present)

Web Manager, Association of Science Communicators (2023)

Board Member, Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (2020–2023)

President, Ohio University Wildlife Club (2017–2020)

REFERENCES

Jonah Piovia-Scott, PhD

Associate Professor

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