

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, and ESRI ArcGIS. Skilled in science communication, photojournalism, public speaking, podcasting, writing, and social media.

EDUCATION

Washington State University, Advisor Jonah Piovio-Scott

Ph.D., Biology (Expected 2027)

GPA: 4.0

The Ohio State University, Advisor Bill Peterman

MSc, Environment and Natural Resources (2023)

GPA: 4.0

Ohio University, Advisor Viorel Popescu

BSc with Honors, Wildlife and Conservation Biology (2020)

GPA: 3.8

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

2025 3-minute Thesis Competition First Place, Washington State University Vancouver

2024 3-minute Thesis Competition Second Place, Washington State University

3-minute Thesis Competition First Place, Washington State University Vancouver

2020 Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Scholarship

2019 National Conservation Scholarship Awardee, Izaak Walton League of America

Student Research Expo Poster 1st Place, Ohio University

Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Scholarship

OCEES Poster Session, Honorable Mention

2018 Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Scholarship

2016 Continuing Conservational Award & Scholarship, Izaak Walton League of America

Medina Chapter

North Olmsted Sportsman Scholarship

GRANTS

2023 Ohio State University, Ray Travel Grant – \$1,000

2020 Ohio State University, Minigrant – \$300

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

6. Wagner, R. B., & Peterman, W. E. (2025). Lampricide Exposure in Mudpuppies (*Necturus maculosus*): Comparing Demographic Responses. *Ichthyology & Herpetology*, 113(2), 361-371.

5. Wagner, R. B., & Peterman, W. E. (2025). Population viability analysis for the common mudpuppy: Assessing potential impacts of TFM lampricide bycatch. *Animal Conservation*, 28(3), 380-388.

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

- 2026 British Ecological Society Capturing Ecology**, Honorable Mention (2)
- 2025 American Institute of Biological Sciences Biology in Pictures**, 2nd Place
The 2026 NANPA Showcase, Conservation Best in Category, First Runner Up
Our Nature Photo and Video Awards, Our Footprints (1), Solutions (1), Stories or Portfolio (1) Finalist
International Photography Awards, Honorable Mention Nature, Environmental / Editorial and Jury Top 5
BMC Ecology and Evolution, Image Competition Research in Action Highly Commended
Nature, #ScientistsAtWork Photo Competition Runner Up
The Nature Photographer of the Year, Environmental Impact Finalist
- 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 #ScientistsAtWork Photo Competition Runner Up
- 2023 North American Nature Photography Association**, Conservation First Runner Up
North American Nature Photography Association, Birds Top 250
North American Nature Photography Association College Scholarship
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

- 2025 BBC Wildlife Magazine**, Parrots of the Caribbean: Caribbean parrots face threats from poaching but a reintroduction program in Aruba is giving one group of yellow-shouldered amazons a second chance (text only)

- BBC Wildlife Magazine**, The Engineers: We knew sea otters saved kelp forests. But we didn't know they could save estuaries, too (cover story)
- National Wildlife Magazine**, Bathing Buddies: Antifungal slurries could be key to protecting amphibians from an insidious threat (photos and text)
- 2024 BBC Wildlife Magazine**, To the Rescue: Mosquitoes nearly wiped out Hawaii's songbirds. Now, the insects may be their last hope (photos and text)
- 2023 NANPA & Tucson Audubon**, Who is a Birder? (video)
- The Guardian**, Snake Rescue: Saving rare species from extinction (photos and text)
- 2022 Wild Ohio Magazine**, multiple articles (photos and text)

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS *invited talks

- 2025 Wagner, R.B.**, Using antifungal treatments to investigate the effects of amphibian disease through space and time, Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Society for Northwest Vertebrate Biology, and Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Joint Annual Meeting
- 2024 Wagner, R.B.**, Putting the Frogs Back: Cascades Frog Reintroductions in Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park Juneteenth Research Symposium
- 2023 Wagner, R.B.**, Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander.
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
Wagner, R.B., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. School of Environment and Natural Resources Student Research Symposium
- 2022 Wagner, R.B.**, Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. The Wildlife Society Conference (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. Ohio Natural History Conference/Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. Conservation Conference (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio's Second Largest Salamander. Vernal Poolooza Conference (poster)
- 2020 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
- 2019 Wagner, R.B.**, Snakes on a lane: Road type and edge habitat predict hotspots of snake road mortality. Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Evaluating the Impacts of Predatory Brook Trout on Corticosterone Levels in a Stream Salamander. Hubbard Brook REU Symposium
- 2017 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
Wagner, R.B., Evaluating Potential Effects of Proximity to Roads in a Road-naïve Population of Turtles. Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster)
Wagner, R.B., Evaluating Potential Effects of Proximity to Roads in a Road-naïve Population of Turtles. Ohio Natural History Conference (poster)

OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS *invited talks

- 2025** **Wagner, R.B.**, Working with scientists. North American Nature Photographers Association Summit
Wagner, R.B., A Plague of Frogs. Washington State University Vancouver Three Minute Thesis Competition
- 2024** **Wagner, R.B.**, Stopping Extinction: Tale of Two Frogs. Washington State University Three Minute Thesis Competition
Wagner, R.B., Stopping Extinction: Tale of Two Frogs. Washington. Washington State University Vancouver Three Minute Thesis Competition
- 2023** **Wagner, R.B.**, Visual Storytelling: How Photography can Benefit Conservation. Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference*
- 2022** **Wagner, R.B.**, A Year in Columbus from an Amphibian's Perspective. Ecology on Tap*
- 2019** **Wagner, R.B.**, Birds of Hawaii. Jackson County Library*
Wagner, R.B., Birds of Hawaii. Athens Area Birders Club*
- 2018** **Wagner, R.B.**, Birds of Hawaii. Ohio University Wildlife Club

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Scientific Aid**, California Division of Fish and Wildlife
- 2021–2022 Contributing Writer and Photographer Wild Ohio Magazine**, Ohio Department of Wildlife
- 2017–2020 Field Technician Amphibian Road Mortality Project**, Ohio University
- 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates**, University of Montana, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest
- 2018 Field Technician Eastern Hellbender Conservation**, Ohio University
- 2017–2018 Field Technician Box Turtle Road Ecology**, Ohio University
- 2015 Creature Feature Videographer**, Cleveland Metroparks

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

RESEARCH MEDIA COVERAGE

NPR All Things Considered, High Country News, Washington State University Vancouver Curiosity Chronicle, Washington State University Alumni Magazine, Nature, Wildlife Professional, Peak Your Interest Podcast, Ohio State University SENR News, Ohio University Alumni News, Ecology on Tap, Rust Belt Arcana, OU Arts & Sciences Forum, The Athens News

PHOTOGRAPHY MEDIA COVERAGE

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

PEER REVIEW

Herpetology Conservation Biology, *Hydrobiologia*, Global Ecology and Conservation, Urban Ecosystems, Ohio Journal of Science

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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

President, Graduate Student Association of Vancouver (2025–Present)

Vice President, Graduate Student Association of Vancouver (2024–2025)

Events Coordinator, Graduate Student Association of Vancouver (2024)

Board Member, Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver (2024–2025)

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 (2018–2020)

Treasurer, Ohio University Wildlife Club (2018)

Officer, Ohio University Wildlife Club (2017)

REFERENCES

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