

Ryan Wagner

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a biologist with seven years of experience working in the sciences, including data collection, leading research teams, data analysis, and manuscript writing. My computer skills include R, ESRI ArcGIS programs, and Microsoft Office suite. My statistical skills include Bayesian and frequentist frameworks. My communication and outreach skills include photojournalism, writing, and social media.

EDUCATION

Washington State University

Ph.D., Biology

expected **2027**

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

HONORS & AWARDS

Nature, Working Scientists Photo Competition Runner Up (2024) – \$630

Washington State University, 3-minute Thesis Competition Second Place (2024) – \$1500

Washington State University Vancouver, 3-minute Thesis Competition First Place (2024) – \$500

North American Nature Photography Association, Conservation First Runner Up (2023) – \$350

North American Nature Photography Association, Birds Top 250 (2023)

The Big Picture Competition, Finalist Human/Nature (2023)

North American Nature Photography Association, College Photography Scholarship (2023)

Izaak Walton League of America, National Conservation Scholarship Awardee (2019) – \$2,500

Ohio University, Student Research Expo Poster 1st Place (2019)

OCEES Poster Session, Honorable Mention (2019)

Ohio Division of Natural Resources, 2018 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp 1st Place, 3rd Place – \$500

Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Scholarship (2018, 2019, 2020) – \$3000 (total)

Izaak Walton League of America Medina Chapter, Continuing Conservational Award & Scholarship (2016) – \$1000

North Olmsted Sportsman Scholarship (2016) – \$1000

GRANTS

Ohio State University, Ray Travel Grant (2022) – \$1,000

Ohio State University, Minigrant (2020) – \$300

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

2023 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.

- 2022** 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.
- 2021** **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.
- 2019** 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>

SCIENCE JOURNALISM PUBLICATIONS

- 2023** **The Guardian** | ‘They aren’t mean and they aren’t trying to get you’: saving the copperbelly water snake – story and images ([link](#))
- 2022** **Wild Ohio** | Center Stage: Ohio’s Softshell Turtles
Wild Ohio | Citizen Science
Wild Ohio | Ohio’s Blackbirds
Wild Ohio | A Roundabout Restoration
Wild Ohio | Managing an Inland Lake
Wild Ohio | National Hunting and Fishing Day
Wild Ohio | This Issue in History March 1955
Wild Ohio | This Issue in History February 1954
Wild Ohio | Wildlife Close Encounters

PRESENTATIONS & OUTREACH *invited talks

Wagner, R.B., Stopping Extinction: Tale of Two Frogs.

- Washington State University, Three Minute Thesis Competition, Pullman, Washington. March 27, 2024.
- Washington State University Vancouver, Three Minute Thesis Competition, Vancouver, Washington, March 1, 2024.

Wagner, R.B., Visual Storytelling: How Photography can Benefit Conservation.

- Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference, Columbus, Ohio. April 4, 2023.*

Wagner, R.B., Peterman, W.H., Tale of Two Salamander Populations: Effects of TFM on Ohio’s Second Largest Salamander.

- Master’s Defense, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio May 14, 2023.
- School of Environment and Natural Resources Student Research Symposium, Columbus, Ohio. March 16, 2023.
- The Wildlife Society Conference (poster), Spokane, Washington. November 7, 2022.
- Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (poster), Spokane, Washington. July 28, 2022.
- Ohio Natural History Conference/Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (poster) 2022
- Conservation Conference (poster), Columbus, Ohio. February 26, 2022.
- Vernal Poolooza Conference (poster), March 24-26, 2022.

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

- Ecology on Tap, Columbus, Ohio. May 8, 2022.*

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

- Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Conference, Athens, Ohio. August 24, 2020.
- Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster), Athens, Ohio. April 11, 2019.

Wagner, R.B., Swartz, L.H., Cochrane, M.D., Lowe, W.H., Evaluating the Impacts of Predatory Brook Trout on Corticosterone Levels in a Stream Salamander.

- Hubbard Brook REU Symposium, Hubbard Brook, New Hampshire. July 31, 2019.

Wagner, R.B., Birds of Hawaii.

- Jackson County Ohio Library, 2019.*
- Athens Area Birders Club, 2019.*
- Ohio University Wildlife Club, 2018.

Weigand, N.M., **Wagner, R.B.**, Tonra, C.M., and V.D. Popescu. Evaluating Potential Effects of Proximity to Roads in a Road-naïve Population of Turtles.

- Ohio University and John Carroll University Herpetology Symposium. Cleveland, Ohio. October 20, 2017.
- Ohio University Student Research Expo (poster), Athens, Ohio. April 6, 2017.
- Ohio Natural History Conference (poster), Cleveland, Ohio. February 24, 2017.

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student, Biology

Aug 2023 – Present

Washington State University, School of Biological Sciences, Vancouver, WA

- Training in theoretical and applied ecology including project design, capture-mark-recapture surveys, antifungal medication treatments, reintroductions, statistical analysis, and manuscript writing.

Scientific Aid

June 2023 – Aug 2023

California Division of Fish and Wildlife, Arcata, CA

- Visual encounter surveys for amphibians in remote mountains (backpacking).
- Invasive fish removal using gillnets.

North American Nature Photography Association College Scholarship

April 2023

NANPA Summit, Tucson, AZ

- Trained in photography and filmmaking techniques.
- Produced outreach media for a conservation organization.

Master's Student, Environment and Natural Resources

July 2020 – May 2023

Ohio State University, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Columbus, OH

- Assess the status, distribution, and lampricide impacts on the common mudpuppy in Ohio including capture-mark-recapture surveys, eDNA collection, statistical modeling, and manuscript writing.

Contributing Writer and Photographer Wild Ohio Magazine

Sept 2021 – Jan 2022

Ohio Department of Wildlife, Columbus, OH

- Conceptualize, interview, and write 500-word stories about nature and science in Ohio.

Field Technician Road Mortality

Aug 2017 – May 2018

Ohio University, OH

Aug 2019 – May 2020

- Conduct road mortality surveys, identify specimens to species, check pitfall traps, and process live animals.

Research Experience for Undergraduates

June 2019 – Aug 2019

University of Montana, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH

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

Field Technician Box Turtle Road Ecology

May 2017 – Nov 2018

Ohio University, Athens, OH

May 2018 – Nov 2018

- Coordinate and lead teams in rugged terrain and oversee data collection.
- Radio telemetry and stress hormone bioassay.

Field Technician Eastern Hellbender Conservation

June 2018 – Aug 2018

Ohio University, OH and PA

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

Videographer

May 2015 – Sept 2015

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, OH

- Interview and film Cleveland Metroparks naturalists to create seven “Creature Features” for Cleveland Metroparks’ social media accounts.

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Raise Research Mentor

June 2024

Washington State University

Guest Lecturer Herpetology

April 2024

Washington State University

Guest Lecturer Organismal Biology

Dec 2023

Washington State University

Teaching Assistant Organismal Biology

Aug – Dec 2023

Washington State University

Undergraduate Research Supervisor

Oct 2020 – May 2023

Ohio State University

Teaching Assistant Conservation Biology

Aug 2019 – Dec 2019

Ohio University

Teaching Assistant Ornithology

Aug 2019 – Dec 2019

Ohio University

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Washington State University

2024 Grant Writing, Foundations of Ecology, Amphibian Biology Seminar, Time Series Analysis

2023 Behavioral Ecology, Fundamentals of Teaching

Ohio State University

2022 Landscape Ecology

2021 Aquatic Ecology, Research Proposal Symposium, Statistics, Applied Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling, Animal Movement Ecology, Telemetry Methods

2020 Design Nature Study, Intro to R in Environmental Sciences, Environment and Natural Resources Seminar

Ohio University

- 2020** Herpetology, Univariate Statistics
- 2019** Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Animal Conservation Biology, Wildlife Habitat Management, Field Ecology
- 2018** Ornithology, Ichthyology, Animal Ecology, Ohio Flora
- 2017** Plant Structure & Development

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TRAINING

The Building a Community of Equity Program (BaCE) Workshops

- Representation through Radical Resistance: Native American Literature and Language (2024)
- Exploring Culturally Safe Dialogues and Navigating with Humility (2024)
- Breathing Stories 2 Life: Exploring the Lived Experiences of First-Generation College Graduates of Color (2023)
- Universal Design for Learning (2023)

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2024** **Nature** | Annual Photography Competition ([link](#))
Washington State University 3-minute thesis ([link](#))
- 2023** **Petapixel** | The Splendid Nature Photos That Won NANPA’s 2024 Showcase ([link](#))
Ohio State University SENR News | Saving the Copperbelly Water snake ([link](#))
- 2022** **Ohio University Alumni News** | Ryan Wagner turns his grad school, camera focus on mudpuppy salamanders ([link](#))
Ecology on Tap | A Year in Columbus from an Amphibian’s Perspective ([link](#))
- 2021** **Wildlife Professional** | Snakes on the Road (November 2021 edition)
- 2019** **Rust Belt Arcana: Tarot and Natural History in the Exurban Wilds** ([link](#))
OU Arts & Sciences Forum | Why Did the Turtles Cross the Road? Or Did They? ([link](#))
Izaak Walton League of America | 2019 IWLA National Conservation Scholarships ([link](#))
Ohio Birds and Biodiversity | In the Footsteps of Conant: Herping Ohio’s Hill Country/Guest blog by Ryan Wagner ([link](#))
- 2018** **The Athens News** | ‘Snot otter’ or ‘hellbender,’ OU scientists want to save them ([link](#))
OU Arts & Sciences Forum | Popescu & Students in News for Conservation Efforts with Hellbenders ([link](#))
OU Arts & Sciences Forum | Sophomore’s Photo Is 2018 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp ([link](#))
OU Arts & Sciences Forum | Outdoor Wire Debuts Wildlife Stamp Featuring Biology Student’s Photo ([link](#))

PEER REVIEW

Herpetology Conservation Biology, Hydrobiologia

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Graduate Student Association of Vancouver, Events Coordinator	2024 – Present
Maui Forest Birds Recovery Project, Photographer	2024
Association of Science Communicators, Social Media Coordinator	2023 – Present
North American Nature Photography Association, Member	2023 – Present
Jamaican Bird Graduate Research Project, Photographer	2023
The Wildlife Society, Member	2022 – Present
American Society of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists, Member	2022 – Present

Desert Tortoise Graduate Research Project, Photographer	2022
Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Board Member	2020 – 2023
Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Board Member	2020 – 2022
Ohio University Wildlife Club, Treasurer, President	2017 – 2020
Ohio Wildlife Management Association, Website Designer	2017 – 2020

REFERENCES

Jonah Piovia-Scott, PhD

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