

**KELLY M. HEFFERNAN**  
West Harwich, MA / Pompano Beach, FL  
[kelly@harwichhaven.com](mailto:kelly@harwichhaven.com)  
Phone (978) 412-5313

### **KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Creative
- Independent Worker
- Self – Motivated
- Flexible
- Problem Solver
- Organized
- Team Player
- Good Communicator

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **South Florida Audubon Society – Avian Biologist (August 2007 – Current) Broward, FL**

Created Project Perch whose mission is to protect and nurture Burrowing owls in Broward County by working with schools and others to provide perches, educational signs and owl friendly protection.

- Installed 26 artificial burrows and T perches. Provided classroom education and oversaw school groups installing the burrows on their campus. Eleven burrows were to passively encourage owls in at-risk locations to move, 13 burrows were immediately occupied, 8 burrows have been continually used since installation, and 5 burrows are the main and only breeding burrow.
- Installed 37 educational signs at 12 schools. Signs were developed and approved by the Institute of Wildlife Sciences, South Florida Audubon Society and Florida Fish & Wildlife.
- Worked with the Wildlife Care Center on the release of rehabilitated Burrowing owls. Installed and located burrows, coordinated releases and provided on site education.
- Won Broward County's Emerald Award in 2009 for exceptional efforts protecting the environment.
- Wrote and received several small grants and ultimately an AD Henderson grant for \$10,000 in 2010.

#### **Long Point Bird Observatory – Bird Bander (Sept - Oct 2006) Long Point, Ontario, Canada**

I was trained at the oldest banding station in North America. Birds were captured and extracted from mist, hawk and owl nets and H and J traps and then banded.

- Helped to rehabilitate a juvenile Red Tailed Hawk; covered and cleaned the cage and provided food.
- Extracted over 400 birds from hummingbirds all the way up to Sharp-shinned hawks.
- Banded over 150 birds from kinglets to hawks. Identified, skulled, estimated the bird's fat, measured and weighed the birds; collecting and entering all of the data into BAND Manager.
- Walked a standard census route to monitor bird and Monarch butterfly migration.

#### **Tall Timbers Research Station – Avian Biologist (May - July 2006) Tallahassee, FL**

I studied juvenile survivorship of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in an old-growth longleaf pine forest being managed for the birds. Also studied the effects of growing season prescribed burns on the productivity and home ranges of Bachman's Sparrows.

- Re-sighted and observed banded sparrows to estimate home ranges, locate nests and fledges.
- Mist netted certain locations regularly and target netted sparrows.
- Worked on a prescribed burn.
- Scoped cavities to estimate hatch and fledge dates; banded juvenile woodpeckers.
- Monitored fledges to determine sex and survivorship.
- Entered the season's woodpecker data into excel files; entered all bird data into BAND Manager.
- Entered GPS data on sparrow locations, sex and behavior and loaded into ARCVIEW daily.
- Used ARCVIEW to create maps of woodpecker families and sparrow home ranges.
- Assisted on quail brood captures to count, weigh and attach wing tags to young.

## EXPERIENCE

### **The Trustees of Reservations – Lead Wildlife Technician (April – Oct 2005) Ipswich, MA**

Led a 3 member team in the protection of nesting and migrating shorebirds at a 4 mile barrier beach. Coordinated, met with and reported to the NE Regional Ecologist and Beach Supervisor.

- Primary duties included locating, monitoring and exclosing the nests of Piping Plovers (PiPl), an endangered species. Protected a Least Tern (LeTe) colony within electric fencing.
- Recorded GPS readings of nest locations and surveyed the beach for erosion.
- Conducted high-tide shorebird surveys, collecting data on the types of fall migrants and disturbance.
- Met weekly with the Property Supervisor to determine beach closures and management issues.
- Wrote the annual PiPl and LeTe reports; completed the annual state census reports.
- Met on-site with the state's biologist and attended the annual PiPl meeting.
- Trained on and operated an ATV, gator and F-150.

### **Massachusetts Audubon Society – Shorebird Monitor (April – Aug 2004) Cape Cod, MA**

Protected nesting shorebirds at numerous beaches managed by several different entities: the state, local towns, US Army Corp of Engineers, Wildlands Trust and private property owners. Educated the public about the birds and reported weekly to Mass Audubon and the beaches' caretakers.

- Located, monitored and exclosed nesting PiPl. Also watched over nesting Willets, American Oystercatchers and 2 small LeTe colonies. Took GPS readings of nest locations.
- Was put in charge of several interns and volunteers and coordinated activities for the Lower Cape.
- Created bi-weekly reports and maps for Mass Audubon, the state and US Army Corp of Engineers.
- Completed the annual state census reports and attended the annual PiPl meeting, reporting results.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### **The Trustees of Reservations – Volunteer (Sept, Oct & Nov 2005) Ipswich, MA**

- Interpretive Bird Walk & Hog Island Day – Worked with the Interpretive Rangers and provided educational talks for the public about the PiPl and LeTe including protection efforts, avian predation, hatching success and the impact of Nor'easters on the season's productivity.
- Ecology Board – Repaired and painted it, then developed educational materials on PiPl and LeTe.

### **US Army Corp of Engineers – Volunteer (Oct 2004 - March 2005) Cape Cod, MA**

- ArcView Data – Compiled data from 2000-2004 into an excel file that we loaded into ArcView. Converted GPS readings and created site maps with numerous data elements.

### **Massachusetts Audubon Society – Volunteer (July - Oct 2004) Cape Cod, MA**

- Tern Banding, Ram Island – Identified Roseate and Common Tern chicks, banded them with up to 3 bands and recorded the species, age and band numbers for each chick.
- Recorder, Nantucket Sound – Flew in a small plane and traveled by boat around Horseshoe Shoals to survey wildlife in the area. There is a windmill farm proposed for the area. Entered data into a computer-modeling program that identified the number of each species and their behavior.
- The assistant director left mid-season, so I volunteered and wrote the annual summary report for the state and reported directly to the Director. Took over the assistant director duties including the beach walks educating the public about Mass Audubon's monitoring and protection efforts. Also developed that season's educational materials for beach displays covering the natural histories of PiPl and LeTe.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### *US Fish & Wildlife Service – Volunteer (May, June & July 2004)* *Cape Cod, MA*

- Horseshoe Crab Census, Chatham – Surveyed 1 mile of shoreline during the night high tides, counting horseshoe crabs, identifying males from females. Conditions included working in the dark, rain, fog and cold water, following a protocol with a team of 4 people. I was promoted to team leader in June.
- Gull Census, South Monomoy Island – Surveyed quadrants of the island to count Herring and Black-Backed Gull nests and eggs. Marked Willett, Egret and Heron nests following different protocols.

## EDUCATION

- Masters in Conservation Biology (June 2001)  
*Harvard University*, Cambridge, MA 3.7 Average
- Awarded the Dean's Prize for the Outstanding Natural Sciences Thesis  
Required original research and analyzed the species composition, abundance and diversity of Macrolichens on granite boulders.