

**Rachael W. Herman**  
Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences  
Louisiana State University  
rherma3@lsu.edu

---

**EDUCATION**

**M.S. in Biological Oceanography** (*in progress*)  
Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences  
*Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge*

expected graduation **August 2016**

**B.S. in Biology** *Magna Cum Laude with Departmental Honors in Biology*  
*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

**May 2009**

**WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant**  
*Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA*

**August 2014 --- Present**

- Assessing the variation in foraging strategies in populations of *Pygoscelis* penguins throughout the Scotia Arc to detect trends due to spatial differences in oceanic productivity and trophic composition. Examining the presence and degree of individual foraging specialization using stable isotope analysis.

**Research Coordinator**  
*San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research; Camp Pendleton, CA*

**January 2014 --- July 2014**

- Supervised a team of research associates monitoring the resident and breeding populations of western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at coastal sites in Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Responsible for tern and plover nest searching and productivity monitoring, behavioral observations, disturbance and predation assessment and documentation, managing and analyzing data.

**Avian Field Technician/GS-05,**  
*Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge; Buldir, AK*

**April 2013 --- September 2013**

- Monitored survival, productivity and diet of auklets, puffins, kittiwakes, murres, storm-petrels, and gulls. Conducted population counts of breeding kittiwakes, murres, gulls, and cormorants. Managed and analyzed data, compiled trip report.

**Research Technician**  
*Deakin University; Gabo Island, Victoria Australia*

**January 2013 --- April 2013**

- Monitored reproduction and foraging ecology of Short-tailed Shearwaters. Configured GLS, GPS and Accelerometer data-loggers and package/seal for deployment. Attached data-loggers to adult shearwaters; retrieved data-loggers and downloaded/compiled data Banded and collected morphometric data on adult birds and chicks

**Sanctuary Manager of Penikese Island**  
*Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife; Buzzards Bay MA*

**May 2012 --- August 2012**

- Managed a remote field camp monitoring breeding populations of endangered Roseate Terns and Common Terns; supervised interns and scheduled field season. Monitored nest chronology and productivity of Roseate and Common terns. Conducted predator management in and around tern colony.

**Biological technician****August 2011 --- April 2012*****US Fish and Wildlife Service; Laysan Island HI***

- Monitored reproduction and survival of Laysan Albatross and Black-footed Albatross. Conducted transect surveys and island wide censuses of breeding albatross. Surveyed and monitored the phenology of breeding seabird populations. Propagated and out-planted native and endangered plant species; controlled for invasive plant species.

**Research Technician****May 2010 --- August 2010*****Savannah River Ecology Lab; Aiken SC***

- Assisted in PhD research on behavioral ecology of green anoles (*A. carolinensis*). Filmed and analyzed video footage of lizard behavior. Collected animals from wild and performed animal care and maintenance. Collected blood samples and prepared for laboratory analysis.

**Undergraduate Honors Thesis****August 2008 --- May 2009*****University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Biology***

- Conducted an independent research project testing the effects of tail autotomy on locomotor performance, kinematics of movement, and stability in the Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*). Gained experience in utilizing primary literature, conducting animal care/husbandry, data collection and organization as well as statistical analysis

**PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS**

**Herman, R.W.** and M.J. Polito. (In prep). Geographic variation in the degree of individual specialization in Gentoo Penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) populations throughout the Scotia Arc.

**Herman, R.W.** and M.J. Polito. (In prep). Species and population level differences in seasonal consistency and individual variation of *Pygoscelis* penguin foraging strategies.

Kohley, C.R. and **R.W. Herman**. 2013. Biological monitoring at Buldir Island, Alaska in 2013. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Rep., AMNWR 2013/09. Homer, Alaska.

**Herman, R.**, K. DeMoranville, and C.S. Mostello. 2012. Penikese Island Tern Restoration Project. Published report. Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife.

**Herman, R.** J. Henningsen and D.J. Irschick. Tail autotomy and its effects on locomotion in the Northern Dusky Salamander. 2009 (Honors Thesis)

**PRESENTATIONS****February 2016, Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Herman, R.**, M. Polito. *Individual specialists, population generalists and Gentoo penguin foraging ecology across the Scotia Arc during a time of rapid environmental change* (poster)

**February 2016, 43<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Seabird Group Conference, Turtle Bay, Hawaii**

**Herman, R.**, M. Polito. *Individual specialists, population generalists and Gentoo penguin foraging ecology across the Scotia Arc during a time of rapid environmental change* (talk)

**October 2015, Second World Seabird conference at Cape Town, South Africa**

**Herman, R.**, M. Polito. *Jack of all Trades or Master of Some? Individual specialists, population generalists and Gentoo penguin foraging ecology across the Scotia Arc during a time of rapid environmental change* (talk)

**March 2015, Graduate Student Symposium at Dauphin Island Sea Lab**

**Herman, R.,** M. Polito. *Jack of all Trades or Master of Some? Individual specialists, population generalists and Gentoo penguin foraging ecology across the Scotia Arc during a time of rapid environmental change* (talk)

**April 2009, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Life Science Symposium**

**Herman, R.,** J. Henningsen and D.J. Irschick. *Tail autotomy and its effects on locomotion in the Northern Dusky Salamander* (poster)

**May 2009, Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference**

**Herman, R.** J. Henningsen and D.J. Irschick. *Tail autotomy and its effects on locomotion in the Northern Dusky Salamander* (poster)

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS**

- Runner-up for best student oral presentation, Pacific Seabird Group, 2016
- Pacific Seabird Group Student Travel Award, 2016 (\$500)
- Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences Travel Award, 2015 (\$250)
- Graduate Student Travel Award, Louisiana State University, 2015 (\$300)
- Graduate Student Symposium Travel Award, 2015 (\$100)
- Undergraduate Student Travel Award, University of Massachusetts, 2009 (\$300)
- Graduate Research Assistantship, Louisiana State University, 2014 (\$20,000/year + tuition waver)
- Commonwealth College Honors Scholar with great distinction (University of Massachusetts, 2009)
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship – awarded full undergraduate tuition waiver (2005-2009)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Ornithological Society, (2016)
- The Oceanography Society (2015, 2016)
- Pacific Seabird Group (2015, 2016)