

Application Form

Disclaimer

Under Florida law, all information, including e-mail, written letters, documents and phone messages, sent to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners are subject to Public Records law. This includes the sender's e-mail address, home address or phone number if shown in the message, the content of the message and any associated attachments to the mail. If you are exempt from aspects of the public records law pursuant to F.S. 119.071, contact the advisory board coordinator at 352-264-6906 prior to submission of this form.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I have read the disclaimer above and understand my application is subject to Florida's Public Records Law.

I Agree

Profile

Amy _____ Schwarzer _____
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

6414 NE 26TH PL _____
Home Address Suite or Apt

GAINESVILLE _____ FL _____ 32609
City State Postal Code

amy.schwarzer@gmail.com _____
Email Address

Home: (352) 647-1126 _____
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

self _____ wildlife biologist _____
Employer Occupation

Education:

Masters of Science - Interdisciplinary Ecology, wildlife concentration - University of Florida, School of Natural Resources, 2011 Bachelor of Arts - Environmental Science, policy concentration - University of Florida, College of Natural Resources, 2003

Professional Organizations:

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Land Conservation Board: Submitted

Amy Schwarzer

What position(s) are you applying for?

Natural Resource Professional

Interests & Experiences**Are you currently serving or have you ever served on an Alachua County advisory board?**

Yes No

If yes, please list board(s):

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment:

I served as a research technician and then scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission from 2007-2022. I have been in the wildlife field since 2000. Though my career was primarily research-based, I worked extensively with land managers and other agency professionals to prioritize, manage and conserve lands. I also served on a number of teams and committees not unlike the board, in that we made recommendations on issues, actions and decisions to a higher governing body or leadership. My resume provides extensive additional detail on my experience and accomplishments.

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?

I would bring scientific knowledge of wildlife and natural resources conservation, as well as an extensive history of working with a diverse set of partners, colleagues and shareholders that represented a multitude of interests. I would contribute both professional expertise as a wildlife biologist and the soft skills necessary to making organizational decisions as a group. I also have strong organizational skills, with particular success in meeting facilitation. Lastly, I have enjoyed living in Alachua County since 1996 and I am passionate about protecting the wild places of my community.

[Schwarzer_resume_Jan2023.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Demographics

Some boards and commissions require membership to be racially, politically or geographically proportionate to the general public. The following information helps track our recruitment and diversity efforts.

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Female

12/20/1978

Date of Birth

Are you over the age of 60? (Required for some boards)

Yes No

Are you a resident of Alachua County?

Yes No

If you are an Alachua County resident, how long have you lived in the county?

27 years

Supplemental Questions

Some of the boards and committees appointed by the County Commission are required to comply with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Financial Disclosure Law. If applicable, would you be willing to file the required financial statement?

Yes No

Do you affirm that your personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?

Yes No

Please Agree with the Following Statement

Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees".

I Agree

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand that this completed application is the property of Alachua County and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct.

I Agree

Amy Schwarzer

6414 NE 26th Pl.
Gainesville, FL 32609

amy.schwarzer@gmail.com
352-647-1126

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- M.Sc. **Interdisciplinary Ecology**, University of Florida Graduated: 2011
Concentration: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Thesis: "Demographic Rates and Energetics in Red Knots Wintering in Florida"
- B.A. **Environmental Science**, University of Florida Graduated: 2003
Concentration: Environmental Policy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private Contractor, self-employed

Jan 2022-current

Wildlife Biologist

Duties, Accomplishments, and Related Skills:

Conservation Planning – develop a waterbird conservation plan for the East Gulf Coast Plains Joint Venture which includes coordinating agency partners and subject matter experts across 6 states, analyzing existing data to estimate current bird populations and setting population and habitat goals, writing and editing of the plan

Conservation Design and Delivery – develop site criteria and identify sites suitable for enhanced habitat management for Eastern Black Rails for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture and the US Geological Survey, recruiting land owners and managers to conduct Black Rail management, identifying funding and resource barriers to assist land owners and managers in their management, developing of field protocols and management guidelines

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

1105 SW Williston Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32601

May 2014-Jan 2022

Assistant Research Scientist

Duties, Accomplishments, and Related Skills:

Coordination of science partners – co-coordinator of the Florida Black Rail Working Group under the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture which communicates and coordinates among state-level and region-wide partners for research and management of Black Rails in Florida; co-chair of the Big Bend Science Symposium which is a meeting of science partners conducting work in the Big Bend region of Florida which includes some of the state's most extensive salt marshes; core team member for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Black Rail working group; regularly coordinates science partners within research projects to better achieve research goals; member of other working groups including the Orange Creek Basin Working Group, the Wood Stork Working Group and the Reddish Egret Working Group; hired and supervised multiple technicians, interns and volunteers on large complex projects

Technical activities, products and tools – participated in Atlantic Coast Joint Venture teams overseeing development of a wetland creation tool and a species distribution model for Black Rail conservation; participated in Atlantic Coast Joint Venture adaptive management processes for improving conservation of

Black Rail; participated in Gulf of Mexico prescribed fire adaptive management process to improve conservation of multiple salt marsh species along the Gulf including Black Rail; participating in creation of state-wide database for colonially nesting wading birds and a prioritization process to identify important colonies for restoration and conservation; participated in the development of the Reddish Egret Business Plan; regularly reviews and updates the Orange Creek Basin Habitat Guidelines, a technical document containing biological and spatial data used to inform lake management

Biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery (science delivery) – Assisted with the development of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Eastern Saltmarsh Conservation Plan, the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Black Rail Conservation Plan, the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Saltmarsh Sparrow Conservation Plan; helped draft the Species Status Assessments for Eastern Black Rail and MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow; reviewed and commented on the Red Knot and Wood Stork Species Status Assessments and Black Rail proposed listing rule; revised biological scores for MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow for state-ranking system which helps dictate priority species; participated in workshops and review of conservation plans for Wildlife Management Area throughout Florida; participated in stakeholder process which included community stakeholders representing a variety of priorities and helped develop the Orange Lake Habitat Management Plan; published 14 peer-reviewed publications and 1 white paper as primary author or coauthor as a way of delivering science results to a larger audience; delivered science in other formats including final reports, internal and external webinars, presentations to professional conferences, working groups and lay groups, social media posts, and an informational video; provide subject matter expert feedback for state permits

Sets goals and objectives for priority species – worked with Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Black Rail Core Team to develop population objectives for Black Rail recovery; helped same team to develop priority research needs and conservation strategies for Black Rail; used research results and expert knowledge to inform annual Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission avian prioritization which guides research, management and funding goals for the next fiscal year

Research, monitoring and data analysis – Principal Investigator for 7 research projects with grants from multiple sources (including Section 6, Coastal and Partners Programs, State Wildlife Grants and various state-level funding sources), with projects focused on priority federal and state-listed species including secretive marshbirds and salt marsh songbirds; designed and conducted research and monitoring projects some of which were statewide efforts; obtained appropriate permissions and permits for research activities; analyzed research and monitoring data to inform management decisions; developed occupancy and abundance models which related salt marsh songbird to landscape and micro-habitat characteristics; participated in development of an occupancy model for Eastern Black Rail as it related to range-wide habitat and land use characteristics; developed habitat selection models for salt marsh songbirds; developed or assisted in developing survival models for Worthington's Marsh Wren and American Oystercatchers; analyzed nest survival in salt marsh songbirds

Supervisor: Andrew Cox (352-260-2407)

Okay to Contact Supervisor: Yes

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

1105 SW Williston Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32601

August 2007-May 2014

Fish & Wildlife Technician (Shorebird Biologist)

Duties, Accomplishments, and Related Skills:

Coordination of science partners – coordinated with numerous inter-agency, university and non-governmental organizations to conduct research on Red Knots and American Oystercatchers; awarded FWC Cooperative Science Award (2009); active member of the American Oystercatcher Working Group

Technical activities, products and tools – assisted in developing restoration plans for American Oystercatcher wintering habitat near Cedar Key, Florida and breeding habitat on the Tolomato River in northeast Florida; conducted American Oystercatcher breeding habitat restoration activities with inter-agency and university partners on the Tolomato River in northeast Florida

Biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery (science delivery) – Assisted USFWS with the initial listing process of the Red Knot by providing data and participating in workshops; published 1 peer-reviewed publication as a primary author a way of delivering science results to a larger audience; delivered science in other formats including final reports, presentations to professional conferences, working groups and lay groups

Sets goals and objectives for priority species – examined the relationship of a population of American Oystercatchers to wintering habitat and produced results that informed subsequent management actions

Research, monitoring and data analysis – Project manager for 3 research projects with funding from multiple sources (including NFWF, State Wildlife Grants and various state-level funding sources), projects focused on priority federal and state-listed species; designed and conducted research and monitoring projects some of which were state-wide efforts; analyzed habitat selection in American Oystercatchers to inform management decisions; developed survival estimates for Florida-wintering Red Knots; analyzed regional spatial movements of Red Knots; surveyed for secretive marshbird populations in the salt marshes of the west coast of Florida using call broadcast surveys

Supervisor: Janell Brush (352-256-0737)

Okay to Contact Supervisor: Yes

University of Florida

School of Natural Resources and Environment
Gainesville, FL 32611

August 2007-August 2011

Graduate Research Assistant and Student (M.S.)

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

Coordination of science partners – coordinated with numerous inter-agency, university and non-governmental organizations to conduct research on Red Knots

Technical activities, products and tools – Created management recommendations for wintering Red Knots for local partners

Research, monitoring and data analysis – Developed survival estimates for Florida-wintering Red Knots; analyzed regional spatial movements of Red Knots; trained extensively and used statistics to analyze biological data as it relates to wildlife populations and habitat use; trained and regularly used statistical programs including R and SAS

Supervisor: Jaime Collazo (919-515-8837)

Okay to contact this Supervisor: Yes

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit - University of Florida, Box 110485, Gainesville, FL 32611

- Biological Technician – May 15, 2006-July 5, 2007 – Duties: Conducted bird (point count and distance sampling), herpetofaunal and vegetation surveys; managed and analyzed project data

University of Arizona – Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 104 Biological Sciences East Building, Tucson AZ 85721

- Marshbird Population Research Aide – March 6, 2005-June 30, 2005 – Duties: Surveyed secretive marshbird populations along the Lower Colorado River using multiple call-back protocols; conducted experimental manipulations of nesting Burrowing Owls to assess the importance of animal waste on food availability and reproductive success; sampled insect and crayfish populations

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex – 73 Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776

- Shorebird/Seabird Technician (Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge) – April 19, 2004-January 21, 2005 – Duties: Monitor breeding activities of federally endangered species and species of concern; data management; wrote annual field season report; created and edited maps using ArcGIS
- Biological Intern – April 14, 2003-August 9, 2003 – Duties: Monitoring and inventory of federally listed species, game species and species of concern; mapped invasive plants using Trimble GPS units and ArcGIS

Ohio State University – School of Environment and Natural Resources, 210 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210

- Assistant Passerine Bander – June 6, 2002-August 25, 2002 – Duties: Trapping and banding of songbirds; insect sampling

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory – 16914 N Whitefish Point Rd, Paradise, MI 49768

- Owl Bander – Mar 31, 2002-June 5, 2002 – Duties: trapping and banding of owls; produced final season report
- Assistant Owl Bander – Mar 30, 2001-June 7, 2001 – Duties: trapping and banding owls

Hawkwatch International – 2240 900 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84106

- Raptor Electrocutation Reduction Program Technician – July 15, 2001-Nov. 30, 2001 – Duties: Sampled power lines and poles to identify areas dangerous to raptors; landowner education
- Florida Keys Raptor Migration Project Education Intern– September 2000-November 2000 – Duties: Education of general public and school children; helped coordinate activities for the Florida Keys Birding Festival

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed, by year of publication:

Stevens, B.S., C.J. Conway, K. Luke, A. Weldon, C.E. Hand, A. Schwarzer, F. Smith, C. Watson, B.D. Watts.

2022. Large-scale distribution models for optimal prediction of Eastern black rail habitat within tidal ecosystems. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, Volume 38: e02222

Schwarzer, A.C., W.A. Cox, B. Tornwall. 2022. Habitat selection of nesting and fledgling salt marsh songbirds in northeast Florida. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 86(6): e22260.

- Lawson, A.J., K. Kalasz, M.C. Runge, A.C. Schwarzer, M.L. Stantial, M. Woodrey, J.E. Lyons. 2022. Application of qualitative value of information to prioritize uncertainties about eastern black rail population recovery. *Conservation Science and Practice*: e12732.
- T.M. Jones, J.D. Brawn, I.J. Ausprey, A.C. Vitz, A.D. Rodewald, D.W. Raybuck, T.J. Boves, C.J. Fiss, D.J. McNeil, S.H. Stoleson, J.L. Larkin, W.A. Cox, A.C. Schwarzer, N.P. Horsley, E.M. Trumbo, M.P. Ward. 2020. Parental benefits and offspring costs reflect parent–offspring conflict over the age of fledging among songbirds. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(48): 30539-30546.
- Dellinger, T.A., A.C. Schwarzer, M.L. Watford, E.H. Leone, and C.M. Enloe. 2020. Impact of hydrilla on use of the littoral zone by three foraging wading birds in central Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 48: 77-86.
- Schwarzer, A.C., W.A. Cox, and B. Tornwall. 2020. Factors influencing occupancy and density of salt marsh songbirds in northeast Florida. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 91: 156-169.
- Cox, W.A., A.C. Schwarzer, B. Tornwall, and R. Chicalo. 2020. Tide and habitat features affect salt marsh songbird nest survival in northeast Florida, USA. *Endangered Species Research* 41: 119-129.
- Cox, W.A., A. Schwarzer, and B. Tornwall. 2019. Postfledging survival of the Worthington's Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris griseus*). *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 14.
- Chicalo, R.M., A. Schwarzer, and W.A. Cox. 2019. Observations on the use of dummy nests by fledgling Worthington's Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris griseus*). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 131: 396-398.
- Cox, W.A., A. Schwarzer, R. Kiltie, A. Paul, M. Rachal, G.M. Kent, K.D. Meyer, and J.J. Lorenz. 2019. Distribution and population status of nesting reddish egrets (*Egretta rufescens*) in Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 47: 1-14.
- Cox, W.A., B. Bankovich, K. Malachowski, A.C. Schwarzer, A. Paul, M. Rachal, J.J. Lorenz, K.D. Meyer, and G.M. Kent. 2019. Nest site selection by reddish egrets in Florida. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 83: 184-191.
- Cox, W.A., A. Schwarzer, R. Kiltie, A. Paul, M. Rachal, G.M. Kent, K.D. Meyer, J.J. Lorenz, P.E. Frezza, H. Rafferty, and S. Roebing. 2017. Development of a survey protocol for monitoring reddish egrets (*Egretta rufescens*) in Florida, USA. *Waterbirds* 40: 334-343.
- J.M. Brush, A.C. Schwarzer, and P.C. Frederick. 2017. Importance and function of foraging and roost habitat for wintering American Oystercatchers. *Estuaries and Coasts* 40: 286-295.
- Schwarzer, A.C., J.A. Collazo, L.J. Niles, J.M. Brush, N.J. Douglass, and H.F. Percival. 2012. Annual survival of Red Knots (*Calidris canutus rufa*) wintering in Florida. *Auk* 129: 725-733.
- White paper:*
- Faulhaber, C., A. Schwarzer, K. Malachowski, C. Rizkalla, and A. Cox. 2016. Effects of human disturbance on shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds: Implications for Critical Wildlife Areas. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Tallahassee, Florida.

GRANTS

Grant Title	Years	Award Amount	Role
"Identification of priority wading bird colonies"	2020-2022	\$63,242	PI
"Testing black rail survey methodologies for improved assessment of management actions"	2020-2022	\$41,354	PI
"The effects of prescribed fire in salt marsh on imperiled avian and mammalian species"	2019-2022	\$178,500	PI
"Black Rail Status Survey for Coastal and Interior Florida"	2016-2017	\$95,040	PI
"Nest- and post-fledging survival of the Worthington's marsh wren across its extant range in Florida."	2015-2017	\$52,060	PI
"Statewide survey and nest-site selection patterns of Reddish Egrets"	2014-2016	\$93,663	Co-PI
"Worthington's Marsh Wren abundance and habitat associations in Northeast Florida"	2014-2016	\$38,000	PI
"American Oystercatcher habitat restoration in Florida – Phase II."	2014-2016	\$130,000	Co-PI
"Assessing the importance of horseshoe crab (<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>) eggs in the diets of migrating red knots (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>) and sanderlings (<i>Calidris alba</i>) during refueling stops on selected Florida beaches"	2007-2010	\$111,000	Co-PI

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Analysis and Management of Wildlife Populations, Ecological Statistics, Ecological Models and Data in R, Biology, Conservation Biology, Forestry, Applied Ecology, Behavior and Conservation, Environmental Science, Hydrogeology and Human Affairs, Natural Resource and Environmental Policy, Entomology, Wetland and Water Quality, Research Design

JOB-RELATED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Meeting Management – September 2020
 Graphics in R – February 2018
 Climate Adaptation Workshop – January 2018
 Access Database Training – December 2016
 Matrix models for Conservation and Management of Populations – February-March 2016
 FWC Supervisor Training – February 2016
 From Supervisor to Leader – April 2015
 Team Building – February 2015
 Occupancy Workshop – March 2013
 Intensive Introduction to GIS – December 2012
 Analysis and Management of Animal Populations - March 2011
 Information Criteria Workshop – January 2010
 Program MARK Workshop – February 2008

COMPUTER AND STATISTICAL PROGRAM SKILLS

Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Powerpoint
 Statistical Programs: R, SAS, MARK, Presence
 ArcGIS

REFERENCES

Andrew Cox – Current Supervisor, Avian Subsection Leader
FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Andrew.Cox@myfwc.com
Office: (352) 334-4241
Cell: (352) 260-2407

Craig Faulhaber – colleague, South Atlantic Coordinator
US Fish & Wildlife Service – Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
Craig_Faulhaber@fws.gov
Cell: (352) 665-0093

Jaime Collazo – Co-advisor
NC Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit - Assistant Unit Leader
Jaime_Collazo@ncsu.edu
(919) 515-8837