

Conservation Puzzles: From Detection Probability to Decision Science



Ariel M.V Fournier, PhD

Conservation often comes down to solving a puzzle, be that how to survey for a secretive species, or how we decide among monitoring processes across a complex socio-ecological system. Starting at the small scale, with a single species during a single time of year, we will examine how to solve the problem of detection probability to understand the migration of rails, secretive marsh birds. Then we will pivot to the large scale, how do we prioritize bird conservation for 500+ species of birds across the entire Gulf of Mexico system in response to the largest oil spill in US history. Both are important, complex conservation problems where creative application of field and quantitative methods helps guide our understanding and decisions to support avian conservation.

Ariel Fournier is a postdoctoral researcher at Mississippi State University at the Coastal Research and Extension Center where she works as part of the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network. She recently finished her PhD in Biology with the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas.

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Science Center 300