Ariana Lorrane Cerreta, PhD

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EDUCATION

2021 – 2026 PhD, Natural Resources
University of Idaho, Department of Fish and Wildlife Science, Moscow, ID
"From genes to behavior: Using genetic and genomic techniques to inform management and study adaptation in a cooperatively breeding carnivore"
Advisor: Dr. David Ausband

2018 – 2021 MSc, Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Newark, DE
"Barriers to dispersal and the challenges facing the southern expansion of bobcats in New Jersey"
Advisor: Dr. Kyle McCarthy

2010 – 2014 BSc, Zoology, *summa cum laude*
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
Minors: Spanish and International Studies
Advisor: Dr. Ola Fincke

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2026 – present **Posdoctoral Research Associate, Texas A&M University – Kingsville, Kingsville, TX**
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute

2021 – 2026 **Graduate Researcher, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID**
Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences

2021 **Adjunct Instructor, Lincoln University, Lincoln University, PA**
Department of Life and Physical Sciences

2021 **Wildlife Technician, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**
Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology

2018 – 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**
Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology

2018 **Wildlife Technician I, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Cedar City, UT**

2015 – 2017 **Secondary School Biology Teacher, U.S. Peace Corps, Nametil, Nampula, Mozambique**

2014 – 2015 **Field Guide/Docent, River Bend Nature Center, Wichita Falls, TX**

2012 – 2014 **Student Tutor – Peer Learning Assistant, University of Oklahoma**

2012 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Evolution (ZOO 2013), University of Oklahoma**

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Boudinot, K., E. M. Stacy, **A. L. Cerreta**, J. M. Tebbenkamp, and D. E. Ausband. Population structure and genetic diversity of gray wolves in Idaho 25 years after reintroduction. *Ecology and Evolution.* In Review.

Glover-Kapfer, P., G. Fowles, G. Dougan, **A. L. Cerreta**, and K. P. McCarthy. Beyond connectivity: dispersal mortality and Allee effects prevent bobcat recolonisation despite habitat availability. *Landscape and Urban Planning.* In Review.

Cerreta, A. L., J. R. Adams, K. Petersen, N. R. Campbell, and D. E. Ausband. More than one way to SNP a scat? The implementation of a microhaplotype SNP panel for non-invasive fecal samples. *G3: Genes | Genomes | Genetics.* Accepted.

Cerreta, A. L., J. R. Adams, B. L. Borg, M. S. Sorum, L. P. Waits, and D. E. Ausband. (2025) Genetic connectivity in a cooperatively-breeding carnivore between two protected areas. *Ecology and Evolution* 15: e71420. DOI: 10.1002/ece3.71420

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, G. Fowles (2023) Habitat suitability and landscape connectivity for an expanding population of bobcats. *Landscape Ecology* 38: 1571-1589. DOI: 10.1007/s10980-023-01639-5

Xu, M., **A. L. Cerreta**, T.D. Schultz, and O.M. Fincke (2014) Selective use of multiple cues by males reflects a decision rule for sex discrimination in a sexually mimetic damselfly. *Animal Behaviour* 92: 9-18. DOI: 10.1016/.anbehav.2014.03.016

In Preparation

Cerreta, A. L., N. R. Campbell, K. M. Long, and D. E. Ausband. A genomics panel to study adaptation and evolution in a group-living carnivore. Target journal: *Molecular Ecology Resources*

Cerreta, A. L., and D. E. Ausband. Wired to wander: Potential behavioral and physical loci influence dispersal in gray wolves. Target journal: *Journal of Animal Ecology*

Technical/not peer-reviewed

Cerreta, A. L.*, and S. McCahon* (2023) Aerial Arts Club Risk Management Plan: Club policies, procedures, and progressions. Outdoor Program, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.

**These authors contributed equally to this work.*

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

Total funds awarded: $106,876.69

Michael & Sharon Scott Graduate Scholarship, University of Idaho	**$3,000**	**2025**
Graduate & Professional Student Association Travel Award, University of Idaho	**$282.02**	**2025**
Secured Gift, Funder- Jonne Hower *Project: Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore*	**$500.00**	**2024**
Secured Gift, Funder- Palouse Audubon Society, Moscow, ID *Project: University of Idaho Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (UI-TWS) Acoustic Monitoring Project*	**$1,000.00**	**2024**
Management, Conservation, & Education Grant, Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society *Project: UI-TWS Acoustic Monitoring Project*	**$1,000.00**	**2024**
Michael & Sharon Scott Graduate Scholarship, University of Idaho	**$1,600**	**2023**
Graduate & Professional Student Association Travel Award, University of Idaho	**$763.74**	**2023**
FY 2023-2024 Fine Arts Fee Grant, University of Idaho *Project: Aerial Arts*	**$4,884.13**	**2023**
Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society Student Travel Award	**$200**	**2020**
Faculty-Nominated Student Scholarship, University of Michigan Biological Station	**$4,000**	**2014**
Jane A. Quade Scholarship, University of Oklahoma	**$700**	**2012**
M. Blanche Adams & M. Frances Adams Summer Research Scholarship, University of Oklahoma *Project: Sex-selected color polymorphisms in damselflies*	**$2,500**	**2013**
National Merit Scholar, University of Oklahoma	**$86,446.80**	**2010 – 2014**

HONORS

Semi-Finalist, David H. Smith Postdoctoral Conservation Research Fellowship **2025**
Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program **2020**
Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges, University of Oklahoma **2014**
Phi Beta Kappa Society **2013**
Golden Key International Honour Society **2013**
College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Scholar, University of Oklahoma **2011 – 2014**

PRESENTATIONS

Contributed

Cerreta, A. L., and D. E. Ausband (2025) Is harvest creating a new wolf? Wolf behavior, sociality, and genomics. *Wolves Across Borders,* June 4, 2025, Lunteren, the Netherlands.

Cerreta, A. L., D. E. Ausband, J. R. Adams, B. L. Borg, M. S. Sorum, and L. P. Waits (2023) Genetic consequences of differing management regimes in a cooperatively breeding carnivore: a case study of wolves from two regions in Alaska. *Wolves Across Borders,* May 8, 2023, Djurhamn, Sweden.

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, and G. Fowles (2022) Habitat suitability and landscape connectivity for an expanding population of bobcats. *The Wildlife Society Annual Conference,* Nov. 6-10, 2022, Spokane, WA.

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, and G. Fowles (2022) Habitat suitability and landscape connectivity for an expanding population of bobcats. *Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference*, Sept. 21, 2022, virtual.

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, G. Fowles, and J. Bowman (2020) Evaluating the potential reestablishment of central and southern New Jersey bobcat populations using spatially explicit, individual-based models. *Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference*, Oct. 7, 2020, virtual.

Cerreta, A. L., and O. Fincke (2014) Why blue and green? An examination of the rationale behind *E. hageni* damselfly coloration. *Undergraduate Research Day,* University of Oklahoma, March 29, 2014, Norman, OK.

Invited

Cerreta, A. L. (2020) Wild cats and urbanization: Bobcats in New Jersey. *The Sunday Talks.* Aug. 30, 2020, virtual. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2iG7b8T89I

Internal

Cerreta, A. L. (2026) From genes to behavior: Using genetic and genomic techniques to inform management and study adaptation in a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Annual Cooperators Meeting*, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, April 15, 2026, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L. (2025) Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Annual Cooperators Meeting*, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, May 1, 2025, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L. (2024) Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Annual Cooperators Meeting*, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, April 24, 2024, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L. (2023) Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Annual Cooperators Meeting*, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, April 26, 2023, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L. (2022) Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Proposal Presentation*, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, April 25, 2022, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L. (2022) Genetics and genomic effects of harvest on a cooperatively breeding carnivore. *Annual Cooperators Meeting*, Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, March 29, 2022, Moscow, ID.

Posters

Butler, M.†, **A. L. Cerreta**, S. Picardi. (2026) Call of the wild: a multi-user protocol for passerine acoustic data processing. *Undergraduate Research Symposium*, University of Idaho, April 27, 2026, Moscow, ID.

Butler, M.†, **A. L. Cerreta**, S. Picardi. (2026) Call of the wild: a multi-user protocol for passerine acoustic data processing. *Rooted in Science: Promoting Conservation, Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2026 Annual Meeting*, March 3-5, 2026, Fort Hall, ID.

Butler, M.†, **A. L. Cerreta**, S. Picardi. (2025) Call of the wild: a multi-user protocol for passerine acoustic data processing. *Wildlife Careers in Focus: Diverse Paths, Shared Purpose, Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2025 Annual Meeting*, March 17-20, 2025, Moscow, ID.

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, and G. Fowles (2020) Landscape connectivity challenges facing the southern expansion of New Jersey bobcats. *The Wildlife Society Annual Conference*, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, virtual.

Cerreta, A. L., K. P. McCarthy, and G. Fowles (2019) Barriers to dispersal and the challenges facing the southern expansion of endangered New Jersey bobcats. *International Conference on Ecology and Transportation*, Sept. 22-26, Sacramento, CA.

†*Undergraduate researcher under my mentorship*

TEACHING

Curricular Courses

Anatomy & Physiology II Lab (BIO 206L). Undergraduate course, Spring 2021. Lincoln University. Role: instructor of record.

Mammalogy (ENWC 425). Undergraduate course, Fall 2018 and 2019. University of Delaware. Instructor of record: Dr. Kyle McCarthy. Role: teaching assistant.

Botany (9th grade biology). High-school course, 2016 and 2017 school years. Secondary School of Nametil, Nametil, Nampula, Mozambique. Role: instructor of record.

Classification of Life (11th grade biology). High-school course, 2016 and 2017 school years. Secondary School of Nametil, Nametil, Nampula, Mozambique. Role: instructor of record.

Evolution (ZOO 2013). Undergraduate course, Fall 2012. University of Oklahoma. Instructor of record: Dr. Ola Fincke. Role: undergraduate teaching assistant.

Extra-curricular workshops

Phylogeny Workshop, March 2023**.** University of Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Moscow, ID.

STUDENTS

Mentorship and Training

2026 **Koryna Boudinot, PhD Student, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho**
Mentored and assisted with genomic analyses with gray wolves to evaluate population structure and candidate adaptive loci associated with fitness and fecundity

2024 – present **Miles Butler, Undergraduate, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho**
Currently mentoring undergraduate researcher in designing, implementing, and executing his Ecology & Conservation Biology thesis project using acoustic monitoring data in collaboration with the University of Idaho Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Miles is currently preparing a publication for the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* under my guidance

2024 – 2026 **Kevan Mitchell, Undergraduate, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho**
Mentored undergraduate researcher in designing, implementing, and executing his Ecology & Conservation Biology thesis project using acoustic monitoring data in collaboration with the University of Idaho Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Kevan prepared his proposal and proposal presentation under my guidance

2022 **Lindsay Petrillo, Post-Baccalaureate Researcher, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho**
Trained post-baccalaureate researcher on the fecal DNA extraction protocol; provided guidance for literature review

2022 **Tala Davis, Undergraduate, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho**
Trained undergraduate conducting research on Mexican wolves on the fecal DNA extraction protocol

2020 **Emma Barefoot, Undergraduate Research Intern, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Unique Strengths Student, University of Delaware**
Project: "Assessment of potential habitat for bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) in Delaware"
Guided rising senior through process of using ArcMap and R to develop a habitat suitability index for bobcats in Delaware using similar methods to my MS Thesis project

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

1/2024-present **Communications Coordinator-General Member, Molecular Ecology Working Group, The Wildlife Society**
Prepared quarterly newsletters, disseminate relevant job announcements, maintain the website, and serve on the Executive Team as a voting member for working group decisions.

9/2023-4/2025 **Graduate Student Representative, University of Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Moscow, ID**
Spearheaded, developed, and acquired funding for an acoustic monitoring project to expand professional and educational opportunities in wildlife research for undergraduate students through experiential learning while concurrently answering pressing questions about declining bird species

1/2023-5/2025 **Vice President, Aerial Arts Club, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID**
Founding officer of Aerial Arts Club; authored and maintained risk management plan, secured funding for mobile rig, negotiated rental fees, coordinated with Outdoor Program for public clinics, developed curriculums, taught lyra, sling, and silks at clinics and club practice, coordinated spring showcase, performed at community and club events

1/2023–5/2023 **Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Meetings, Department of Fish and Wildlife Science, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID**

2022 **Reviewer, Undergraduate Research Thesis Presentations, Department of Fish and Wildlife Science, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, May 2022 and December 2022**
Reviewed, evaluated, and provided feedback for undergraduate research theses

2020 – 2021 **Member, Diversity Committee, Graduate Student Government, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**
Spearheaded and helped author the *Petition for the University of Delaware to Take Concrete Actions in Solidarity with the Black Community NOW* and facilitated townhall conversations with administration regarding racial issues on campus pertaining to graduate students

2019 – 2020 **Co-Chair, Diversity Committee, Graduate Student Government, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**
Programmed graduate student townhall to identify diversity needs and drafted and submitted a proposal for Interfaith Spaces on campus

2019 – 2020 **Senator for the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Graduate Student Government, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**
Represented and advocated on the behalf of graduate student concerns from the department

2017 **Regional Representative, Community Library Program, U.S. Peace Corps, Mozambique**
Communicated and supported volunteers and host-country national counterparts in the northern provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado; assisted the national training of volunteers and counterparts

2016 – 2017 **National Science Club Coordinator, U.S. Peace Corps, Mozambique**
Developed a science club curriculum to facilitate after-school, hands-on science activities to teach the scientific method; coordinated with the Ministry of Science and Technology to conduct the first national training of science club facilitators

2016 **Provincial Science Fair Coordinator, U.S. Peace Corps, Nampula, Mozambique**
Coordinated with the provincial leaders to organize and conduct a provincial science fair

2013 – 2014 **External Events Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Scholars, University of Oklahoma**
Communicated events with members and organized networking activities for dinners

2013 – 2014 **Student Advisor, Student Advisory Committee, Department of Biology, University of Oklahoma**

2013 – 2014 **Curriculum Task Force Member, Department of Biology, University of Oklahoma**

2013 **Volunteer, New Land Academy, Oklahoma City, OK**

Assisted with classroom activities and coursework at a school that caters to children from the refugee population in Oklahoma City

Referee Services: *Journal of Wildlife Management, Journal of Applied Ecology, Springer*
Professional Memberships: The Wildlife Society
University of Idaho Student Chapter
Idaho Chapter
Northwest Section
Molecular Ecology Working Group

OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

2024 Invited interview on bobcats and habitat connectivity, Nov. 15, 2024; Interviewer: Damarys Hernandez Santana, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

2023 Guest Scientist for Girl Scout Day Camp for Troop 2005, Moscow, ID, June 13, 2023

2020 – 2021 Host, *STEMbassy* (STEM communication talk show featured in *Fortune* magazine), virtual, stembassy.org

2020 Project Expert for a Girl Scout troop Silver Award project, Girls Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, Newark, DE

2019 Coordinator for Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology booth for Ag Day 2019, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

2014 World Thinking Day presentation to Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, Wichita Falls, TX

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS

2022 **Do the Genomics: An Introductory Course in analyzing Genomic Data in R**, TWS 2022 Annual Conference

2020 **Multi-Species Occupancy Modeling Workshop**, TWS 2020 Annual Conference

2019 **Non-Tidal Streams Shadowing Training**, North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

2019 **Non-Tidal Streams Field Training**, North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

2019 **Non-Tidal Streams Protocol Training**, North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

2017 **Verified Certificate of Achievement, Statistics and R (PH525.1x)**, HarvardX, Harvard University

2017 **Professional fluency in Portuguese**, U.S. Peace Corps, Mozambique

2014 **Master Certified Tutor, Level III** – CRLA International Tutor Training Program Certification, University of Oklahoma

2012 **Conversational fluency in Spanish**, Semester Exchange, Universidad Viña del Mar, Viña del Mar, Chile