

zachary a. cava

Sacramento, CA | 610-304-9141 | cava.zachary@gmail.com | zacharycava.net

WORK EXPERIENCE

Staff Biologist

Eric C. Hansen Biological Consulting, Sacramento, CA. (August 2018 – Present)

- Participate in field studies involving the federally-protected Giant Gartersnake
- Build, deploy, and maintain traps; record data for occupancy/demography studies
- Handle and transport snakes; record morphometric data; mark via branding + PIT tags
- Conduct biological monitoring on projects affecting giant gartersnakes

Turtle Technician

The Orianne Society, GA & FL, (March – June 2018)

- Performed statewide inventories for Spotted Turtles in Georgia and Florida
- Located turtles by trapping and visual encounter surveys
- Processed turtles for mark-recapture (morphometrics, tissue collection, notching)
- Assessed habitat suitability / characterize habitat features

Salamander Technician

FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Liberty Co., FL, (October 2017 – March 2018)

- Assisted with projects focused on conservation of the Frosted Flatwoods Salamander
- Installed and monitored drift fence arrays
- Searched for and collected eggs for captive rearing

Project Lead

Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, NY, (January 2016)

- Prepared feasibility assessment for the enhancement of vernal pool habitats

Authorized Biologist

The Sanberg Group, NV/CA (November 2012 – July 2014)

- Conducted preconstruction surveys for desert tortoise and other sensitive species
- Performed biological compliance monitoring during construction activities
- Supervised biological monitors during construction activities
- Prepared daily field monitoring reports documenting project progress

Telemetry Technician

Great Basin Institute, Las Vegas, NV (March – May 2012; May 2014)

- Tracked tortoises in continuous circuit throughout the day using radiotelemetry
- Collected data on tortoise activity patterns

Biological Science Technician (GS-0404-06)

U.S. Geological Survey/Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Field Station, Henderson, NV (January 2011 – February 2012)

- Tracked telemetered tortoises and gathered data for a large-scale translocation
- Characterized habitats utilized by tortoises
- Affixed, removed, and repaired radio transmitters, floy tags, and temperature loggers
- Conducted tortoise health assessments, including tissue sampling, rehydration, X-rays
- Surveyed transects for unmarked tortoises and signs of canid/lagomorph presence
- Excavated tortoise nests and collected eggs for incubation

EDUCATION

SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo, NY
Master of Arts, August 2016
Department of Biology

Thesis: *Behavioral differences between native and exotic invertebrate prey affect susceptibility to predation by a native amphibian predator*

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor of Arts, December 2009
Major/Minor: Biology /
Environmental Studies
(magna cum laude)

HONORS + AWARDS

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo, NY (2017)

V. Ray Frederick Research Grant, SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo, NY (2015)

HSBC Commit-to-Change Grant, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY (2009)

Bernard Scholarship, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY (2008)

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WORK EXPERIENCE (continued)

Herpetological Intern

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Sudbury, MA (April – November 2010)

- Participated in research and management of threatened turtles
- Tracked telemetered turtles; mapped locations and movements with GPS and GIS
- Monitored nesting activity, installed predator exclosures, collected hatchlings
- Conducted amphibian egg mass counts and dip net surveys
- Collaborated with partner organizations on Blanding's turtle conservation

Field Technician Assistant

San Diego State University/Clark Lab, Sunol Regional Wilderness, Alameda County, CA (May – July 2009)

- Aided in study of predator-prey interactions between rattlesnakes and squirrels
- Tracked daily movements of telemetered snakes and recorded behavior
- Participated in mark-recapture of squirrels, rattlesnakes, and other herpetofauna
- Utilized videography and biorobotics to study behavioral interactions

Research Intern

The Wetlands Institute/Coastal Conservation Research Program: Terrapin Conservation Project, Stone Harbor, NJ (May – August 2008)

- Conducted road surveys, recovered eggs from road-killed terrapins
- Monitored and cleaned eggs during incubation
- Performed PIT tag injection/identification
- Installed roadside barrier fencing and nest exclosures
- Prepared data for public presentation

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cava, Z. A., A. M. McMillan, C. M. Pennuto, and R. J. Warren II. 2018. Hellbender prey preference is superseded by native and nonnative prey behavior. *Journal of Herpetology*. 52(2):162-170.

Buhlmann, K. A., S. L. Koch, B. O. Butler, T. D. Tuberville, V. J. Palermo, B. A. Bastarache, and Z. A. Cava. 2015. Reintroduction and head-starting: tools for Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) conservation. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*, 10(1):436-454.

Cava, Z. A. 2012. Herpetological history. A chelonian Civil War veteran. *Herpetological Review*. 43(4):593-596.

Cava, Z. A. and M. Barbour. 2010. Geographic distribution. *Lampropeltis zonata*. *Herpetological Review*. 41(1):110-111.

CERTIFICATIONS

American Red Cross First Aid Training (Standard First Aid + Adult CPR/AED; February 17, 2011-2014)

American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) Wilderness First Aid Training (March 11, 2012-2014)

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety training (July 2012)

Fort Irwin NTC Range Support Safety Training (October 1, 2012-2013)