

THOMAS J. ALLEN

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BACKGROUND: Birthplace: Boston, Massachusetts. Served in the U.S. Air Force from June 1960 to January 1964. Discharge - Honorable. Following my discharge from the Air Force, where I was trained in electronics and worked on airborne weapon control systems of fighter jets, I went to work for a microwave development laboratory and worked in development of parts for weapons systems. I left there in June 1964 to enter college.

EDUCATION: **University of Maine - 1970**

Master of Science Degree in Wildlife Management after completing research entitled "Movements and Habitat Utilization of White-tailed Deer on Acadia National Park." This study involved the use of radio telemetry to achieve my goals. As part of my graduate program I undertook a separate study of the ecology of a boreal forest on Mount Desert Island, Maine, for the National Park Service. Following my graduate studies, I assisted the Maine Department of Fish and Game with telemetry studies on moose at Patten, Maine.

University of Maine - 1967

Bachelor of Science Degree in Entomology. While at the University of Maine I worked for one summer for the Fish and Wildlife Service capturing, banding and studying American Woodcock at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Calais, Maine. I also worked on woodcock and waterfowl banding studies, and ruffed grouse population studies at the University of Maine. I maintained and cared for the captive deer herd at the campus, and I curated the Maine collection of bird and mammal study skins while attending school.

ADJUNCT TEACHING:

Fall 2003 - Spring 2008

Taught a course in Ecology, Man/Environment BSC1050C, at Edison College, Fort Myers. The course centered around the impacts of man on the environment and involved various field trips to ecosystems, as well as waste management and pollution control facilities.

Spring 2001, 2002

Taught general biology labs for Glenville State College at Glenville, WV, during the spring of 2001 and spring of 2002. Duties required a knowledge of the classroom material and consisted of setting up the labs and assisting with the teaching of the lab exercises.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Spring 2005 – Present

Employed by Reiman Publications as a contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* and *Birds & Blooms Extra* magazines. In this capacity, I write a column on butterflies for the *Extra* edition and review and edit other articles about butterflies for both magazines.

May 2003 – Present

Research Associate for the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Gainesville, Florida. Duties include writing research proposals and conducting field research and surveys on Florida's threatened and endangered butterflies. My background and experience is centered around upland habitats.

April 2004 – 2008

Employed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to conduct telemetry research on burrowing owls in Cape Coral. One hundred fourteen fledgling owls were equipped with radio transmitters in spring 2004 and 2005. I monitored these owls weekly through the nesting and dispersal period. Data on their movements and activity as well as survival were gathered, and I prepared and submitted a final report on the study. Owl nest surveys are conducted annually. In addition, 200 to 300 owls were banded each year to acquire additional survival and movement data on the population in Cape Coral.

July 1970 – April 2003

Employed by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources in July 1970 as a research biologist, a position held until retirement in April 2003.

Species studied and researched during my tenure at WV DNR:

Wild Turkey telemetry studies
Wild Boar introduction program
Raccoon research and telemetry
Black Bear telemetry studies
White-tailed deer research and management
River Otter reintroduction program
Statewide butterfly surveys
Ruffed grouse population dynamics, telemetry research
Big-eared bat telemetry studies
Timber Rattlesnake telemetry studies

Wild Turkeys

Wild turkey research involved capturing, tagging and equipping birds with radio transmitters. Females were monitored for a period of five years to gather information on dispersal, mortality, production, range and habitat utilization by season. Nests and broods were closely monitored for success and recruitment of young.

Wild Boars

European Wild Boars were obtained from Tennessee and held for a period of time before being released into southern WV in 1971. A graduate student was brought on board to collect information on boar movements, survival and production. I served as project leader on this study.

Raccoons

Raccoons were obtained from out-of-state suppliers to study the survival success of translocated raccoons in southern WV. Over a 2-year period nearly 200 animals were obtained from a Texas supplier and released into southern WV after equipping half of the animals with radio transmitters and half with reward collars. Radioed animals were followed to their recovery or lost to transmitter failure. Tagged animals were monitored through hunter returns. I served as project leader on this study.

Another study involved capturing native raccoons and studying their behavior and habitat use in southern WV. This study was conducted by a graduate student. I served as project leader.

A door-to-door survey was conducted on raccoons, raccoon hunting and dog training in southern WV. A final report of the findings was published. I served as project leader.

Black Bears

As co-leader of Big Game Research, I assisted in a long-term study of black bear production. Bears were captured using various techniques and females were radio collared. The winter dens were visited and young counted and tagged. This study exceeded 10 years.

White-tailed Deer

When hired in 1970 I was the white-tailed deer research project leader. In this position I maintained hunting season harvest records. I played a roll in the publicizing and finally the passing of legislation to permit the annual harvest of antlerless deer. Biological data were collected as needed over a 20-year period.

Twenty-two 1/40 acre deer exclosures were established around the state to measure the impact of deer herds on vegetation. Data collections were made at each site every 3 years. Technical papers were presented at the Northeastern Fish and Wildlife Conference at 6- and 9-year intervals.

River Otters

River Otters were extirpated from WV in the mid 1950s. A program was initiated to bring the river otter back to the state. Stockings were made from 1984 through 1997, using animals obtained from various coastal states. A total of 249 otters were reintroduced into the major river systems in the state. Two graduate projects were initiated to monitor the animals' movements, food habits and survival via radio telemetry. I served as project leader for this program.

Butterflies

I began a study of historical data collected prior to 1984 on the distribution of butterflies throughout WV. From 1984 through 1987, I conducted

intensive surveys around the state to gather more complete information on the butterfly fauna of the state as well as their distribution. This was accomplished with the assistance of several collectors and observers reporting their findings to me. During the 10-15 year period, I reared and photographed several species of butterflies for use in a forthcoming book. Following the collection of data and photos, I wrote and published a book titled *The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars*. The guide covers 128 species found in West Virginia and includes photos of caterpillars of 110 species.

I coauthored another book, in a popular field-guide series, "Butterflies Through Binoculars," on the caterpillars of U.S. butterflies. Over 450 U.S. species were covered and depicted in color plates. The guide, titled *Butterflies in the Field and Garden: A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America*, is the first publication of this magnitude directed at caterpillars. Publication release date was April 2005.

Ruffed Grouse

In 1995 following a decision to initiate a ruffed grouse population dynamics study, a study site was selected and a 1-year pilot project begun. This project involved the capture and radio equipping of grouse on 2 sites in West Virginia for long-term monitoring. Having completed the pilot project successfully, 7 other states (Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania) joined in a 6-year project to study ruffed grouse population dynamics in the Appalachian region. The project was completed in September 2002. I served as project leader in this research effort in West Virginia.

Big-eared Bats

Over the course of two summers, I provided research assistance for a project to capture, radio-tag and monitor endangered Virginia big-eared bats. I also assisted in the radio-telemetric monitoring of small-footed bats and long-eared bats.

Timber Rattlesnakes

I supervised a technician on the ruffed grouse research project who was also conducting her Master's program research on the Timber Rattlesnake in West Virginia. I provided guidance and assistance in the capturing, tagging, transmitter implanting, and monitoring of the rattlesnakes within their home range for a 3-year period.

Other Projects

Over the years, I conducted or provided assistance with the Peregrine falcon reintroduction project, a spotted turtle telemetry project, bat surveys, bird surveys, and woodcock and wood duck capture and banding studies. In addition, I presented numerous programs on research activities and resource management to audiences, and wrote numerous articles for magazines, newspapers, radio and television. Also not included here are annual State reports and Federal Aid job progress reports.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

In addition to studying butterflies and rearing their larvae, I have a strong interest in photography. I am also a recognized wildlife artist. I began a wildlife art print business, Nature's World in Print, in 1974. I had published 20 art prints that were marketed to various dealers and frame shops around the state. Two prints were done for the WV Wildlife Diversity program at its inception. Another print was done for the Rotary International Polio Plus program. A print entitled *Flight For Freedom* was presented to the Commanders of the USS *West Virginia* Trident submarine at its commissioning in Kings Bay, GA, to be hung in that submarine. I also did a print for the Ohio Lepidopterist Society for their 10th anniversary. I designed three wildlife license plates in 1998, 2002 and 2007 for West Virginia, which are being used to generate revenues for the WV Wildlife Diversity Programs. The latest plate, designed in 2007, depicts a brook trout.

I am on the Board of Directors for the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife. I am also a member of the Lepidopterists Society, the Southeastern Lepidopterists, the Fossil Club of Lee County, the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida, the Florida Native Plant Society, and the Cape Coral Art League.

PUBLICATIONS:

Allen, T.J. 1970. Immobilization of white-tailed deer with succinylcholine chloride and hyaluronidase. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 34(1): 207-209.

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