

VALERIA ASPINALL

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science Degree in Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology May 2020
Specialized concentration in Conservation Biology GPA 3.325
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

SKILLS

- Bilingual in English and Spanish with native proficiency (Costa Rican nationality)
- Proficient in Remote Sensing Technology, QGIS, ArcGIS Pro, Program R and Microsoft Office

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Remote Sensing Internship – Smithsonian Tropical Research Center (remote) Aug 2021 to Feb 2022

- Developed a land cover map of the San San Pond Sak protected area using satellite imagery
- Identify the percentage of deforested land along the perimeter of the rivers San San, Negro and Changuinola
- Generate a reforestation plan abiding with the Panamanian watershed laws and guidelines
- Improve the surrounding terrestrial habitat of the Caribbean manatee populations of San San Pond Sak

Conservation Intern & Staff – Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation Jan 2021 to Jan 2022

- Field assistant for Nai Conservation: assisted with two *Tapirus bairdii* captures, telemetry tracking, camera trap monitoring programs and citizen science projects.
- Developing a herpetofauna biodiversity inventory and community workshops in the area of Bijagua
- Collaborated with the description of a newly discovered form in the family *Hylidae*

Research Assistant – MS Candidate in the FWCB Department, CSU Fall 2018 & Spring 2019

- Observed bird banding & blood sampling field techniques at the Colorado State University Mountain Campus
- Performed nest dissections, insect identification & microscope blood slide analysis in the lab

Volunteer – The Hummingbird Monitoring Network Summer 2018 & 2019

- Volunteered at the monitoring station at the Colorado State University Mountain Campus
- Learned to identify species and how to trap/handle hummingbirds
- Observed and participated in the data collection processes lead by field expert

Volunteer – The Wild Macaw Association (WMA), Costa Rica Jan-Feb-March 2016

- Helped with population monitoring of reintroduced Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao*)
- Learned to track and identify individuals to observe and record their behavior
- Gave informative presentations to tourists and donors

Volunteer – National Wildlife Refuge Camaronal, Costa Rica July 2014

- Patrolled beach for 3-hour shifts every night and recorded behavior of turtle species
- Data collection: tagging, measuring, identifying and recording behavior of turtle species
- Led educational ‘tours’ for high school groups and tourists

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – NR 220 Natural Resources Ecology & Measurements, CSU Summer 2019 & 2020

- Taught material across five disciplines within the natural resources field
- Provided students the necessary support to succeed in this distinctively challenging field course
- Reinforced knowledge of field methods: distance sampling, removal estimators, population estimation, etc.
- Skills learned: leadership, delegation, adaptability, public speaking, group dynamics, responsibility

Teaching Assistant – NR 120A Environmental Conservation, CSU Fall 2019

- Assist professors with Canvas, in-class quizzes & weekly quizzes, gradebook upkeep
- Organize and participate in field restoration workdays
- Support students in any way needed to encourage their success
- Skills learned: time management, public speaking, organization, leadership and delegation

Teaching Assistant² – BZ 111 Animal Biology Laboratory, CSU Spring & Fall 2018

- Received the BZ 384 Supervised College Teaching credit (x2)
- Personally led & taught four lab lectures
- Skills learned: public speaking, confidence, organization, responsibility