

# Scott Thomas, Ph.D.

Biology Department  
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## EDUCATION

2020 PhD in Integrated Bioscience University of Akron  
Dissertation: Demographic and environmental influences on population dynamics in pond-breeding salamanders

2013 MS in Biology University of Akron  
Thesis: Genetic structure due to variation in breeding time in a salamander population

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2011 BS in Biology University of Mount Union

## APPOINTMENTS and EXPERIENCE

2020-2022,2024 Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Murray State University

2023-2024 Amphibian Road Mortality Consultant: National Parks Service

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## TEACHING

### Hiram College

2024-present Introduction to Biology – Instructor

### Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

2022-present Undergraduate research mentor

### The University of Akron

2013-2018 Vertebrate Zoology – Lab Instructor

2011-2018 Principles of Biology I and II – Teaching Assistant

2011-2018 Anatomy and Physiology I and II – Teaching Assistant

2012-2017 Herpetology – Teaching Assistant

2015 Animal Behavior – Reader

2015 General Ecology – Reader

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## PUBLICATIONS

Kirk, M. A., Lackey, A. C., Reider, K. E., Thomas, S. A., & Whiteman, H. H. (2024). Climate mediates the trade-offs associated with phenotypic plasticity in an amphibian polyphenism. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.14187>.

Kirk, M. A., Reider, K. E., Lackey, A. C., Thomas, S. A., & Whiteman, H. H. (2023). The role of environmental variation in mediating fitness trade-offs for an amphibian polyphenism. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 92(9), 1815-1827. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13974>.

Garner, A. M., Stark, A. Y., Thomas, S. A., & Niewiarowski, P. H. (2017). Geckos go the distance: Water's effect on the speed of adhesive locomotion in geckos. *Journal of Herpetology*, 51(2), 240-244. <https://doi.org/10.1670/16-010>.

Crump, P., Berven, K., Youker-Smith, T. E., Skelly, D., Thomas, S., & Houlahan, J. (2017). Predicting anuran abundance using an automated acoustics approach. *Journal of Herpetology*, 51(4), 582-589. <https://doi.org/10.1670/16-174>.

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## FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

### Completed

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (Award #2010958)

Title: Do energy gradients mediate cannibalism-driven population dynamics?  
2020- \$207000

Choose Ohio First Scholarship in Bioinformatics Research

2013- \$3500  
2014- \$4000  
2015- \$4000

### Rejected

NSF Organismal Responses to Climate Change (August 2025)

Title: Integrating eco-evolutionary dynamics, physiology, and genetics to understand and predict consequences of climate change on high-elevation predator-prey interactions  
PI: Alycia Lackey (University of Louisville)

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## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

2024 University of Akron.

### Contributed Talks

2019 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology.  
2017 Three Rivers Evolution Event sponsored by the American Society of Naturalists.  
2017 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Midwest Regional Meeting.

### Posters

2016 Cuyahoga River Ecology and Evolution Consortium.  
2015 Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference.  
2014 Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference.

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## SERVICE

Journal ad hoc Reviewer – *Oecologia, Ecosphere*

### Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

2023-present Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
2020 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

### Organization of Biological Field Stations

2022-2023 Board of directors, Early Career Member At-Large  
2022-present Committees – travel awards, grants, annual meeting planning

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## OUTREACH

2018-present Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory – various presentations to community, board, and donors  
2012-2024 University of Akron Field Station Open Houses and public presentations  
2013-2024 Herpetofauna exhibitions  
2012-2020 Public creek walks and amphibian migration hikes  
2013-2019 K-12 Field Trips to University of Akron Field Station properties  
2019 Invited panel discussion at Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
2016 Invited presentation to Ohio Wetlands Association Vernal Pool Workshop

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Ecological Society of America

Herpetologists' League

Society for Freshwater Science

Organization of Biological Field Stations

American Society of Naturalists

American Association of University Professors

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