

**John E. Quinn IV**

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**EDUCATION**

2004- Present **M.S. Candidate, Biology**, University of Louisiana. Monroe, Louisiana, 71209.  
Proposed Master's Thesis: *Mechanisms of parasite egg rejection in two members of the family Mimidae.*

I am researching the response of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) and Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) to parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs. Original theory stated that an avian host species could be clearly categorized as either an acceptor or a rejector of parasitic eggs. Recent work has forced reconsideration of this statement. The objectives of this study are to determine if variation in rejection rate can be attributed to 1) habitat suitability of nest location, 2) size of host clutch, and 3) variation in the coloration of the parasitic egg. The data that is collected will improve our understanding of proximate response mechanisms to avian brood parasitism.

In addition, I am conducting an Avian Biodiversity Study of Boeuf Wildlife Management Area. Boeuf WMA is a 50,000-acre tract of bottomland hardwood in Northeast Louisiana. I will be assessing the avian species composition on Boeuf WMA to provide baseline data of species richness and abundance. I will analyze the data to measure the effects of management techniques on the avian population.

**Expected Completion Date:** August 2006. **Major Advisor:** Dr. Kim Marie Tolson.

2003 **B.S., Environmental Science, B.A. Environmental Policy, Biology minor.** Drake University.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Exploring environmental concerns within biodiversity and sustainability, avian conservation, habitat restoration, the role of birding as a medium for environmental awareness and education.

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Quinn J.E.,** K.M Tolson. 2005. Avian response to silviculture practices in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley: A breeding bird survey of Boeuf Wildlife Management Area. Paper presented at the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologist meeting, Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Quinn J.E.** 2005. Mechanisms of Brown Thrasher Parasite Egg Rejection. Paper presented at the University of Louisiana Student Research Symposium, Monroe, Louisiana.

**Quinn, J.E.** 2003. "Healthy Forest Initiative": Environmental Policy at the Start of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Drake University Social Science Journal.*

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2003 **Avian Research Assistant.** Gooseneck Adaptive Management Area. Macdoel, California Wildlife Conservation Society Forest Fire Surrogacy Research Project. A five-year national research project investigating the effects of fire and "fire surrogates" on forest ecosystem functioning in ponderosa pine forests.

- Nest searching
- Avian point counts
- Foraging behavior monitoring
- Data collection and analysis

- 2003 **Project Coordinator.** Polk County Conservation Board and Drake University. Des Moines, Iowa  
Merging science, policy, and education; development of an interpretive canoe trail at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt Nature Preserve. Collaboration of PCCB and students of Environmental Science and Policy Senior Seminar.
- Integration of ArcView GIS and GPS mapping data
  - Identification of local floral and fauna
  - Time management and delegation of authority and
  - Development of land ethic and application of land stewardship
- 2002 - 2003 **Herbarium Collection Assistant.** Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa  
Worked to identify and curate flora of Iowa and the Midwest for the herbarium of Drake University's Biodiversity Center.
- 2002 **Avian Behavior Research Assistant.** University of Missouri, Eldorado Springs, Missouri  
Habitat Use, Movement, and Survival of Fledging Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlark  
Grassland bird research in Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie and Taberville Prairie in southwestern Missouri.
- Radio telemetry
  - Post disturbance behavior monitoring
  - GPS
  - Nest searching for Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlarks
  - Data collection and analysis
  - Bird banding of fledging Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlarks
- 2002-2003 **Committee Member.** Drake University Environmental Task Force.  
Assisted in the establishment of recycling program on campus. Co-wrote proposal to implement natural gardening on campus and introduce energy efficient appliances to school buildings.
- 2001-2002 **Service Learning Facilitator.** Drake University, Des Moines, IA.  
'Digital Citizenship and Environmental Justice' National Science Foundation Research Project.  
Directed underclassmen in weekly sessions to educate low-income and minority community members in acquiring and using digital information.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2006, Spring Lab instructor for Biology 111, Biology for non-majors, University of Louisiana
- 2005, Fall Lab instructor for Microbiology 215, University of Louisiana
- 2005, Spring Invited lecture to Management of Game Bird presenting the waterfowl of Louisiana

### **SELECTED VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

- 2005-2006 **Girl Scouts Silver Waters Council.** Led informative walks exploring the floral and fauna of the upland pine hardwood ecosystem.
- 2005 **Black Bayou NWR International Migratory Bird Day.**
- 2004-2005 **Northeast Louisiana Bird Club.** Built and maintained website for local bird club.
- 2004-2005 **Christmas Bird Count.** Northeast Louisiana.
- 2003-2004 **The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.** Education volunteer.
- 2001-2003 **Iowa Chapter Nature Conservancy.** Assisted with preserve management and land stewardship projects.

**AWARDS**

2005 American Ornithologists' Union Student Membership Award  
2004 University Research Assistantship, University of Louisiana at Monroe  
2003 Metro Waste Authority Business/University Recycling Award  
2000 Drake University Track and Field Most Improved  
1999-2003 Drake University Presidential Scholarship

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

Society for Conservation Biology  
Cooper Ornithological Society  
American Ornithological Union  
Louisiana Ornithological Society  
Association of Southeastern Biologists  
Sigma Xi

**REFERENCES**

Dr. Kim Marie Tolson Associate Professor of Biology, University of Louisiana at Monroe. [tolson@ulm.edu](mailto:tolson@ulm.edu),  
318.342.1805  
Dr. Keith Summerville Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Police, Drake University.  
[keith.summerville@drake.edu](mailto:keith.summerville@drake.edu) 515.271.2265  
Dr. Loren Hayes Assistant Professor of Biology. University of Louisiana at Monroe. [lhayes@ulm.edu](mailto:lhayes@ulm.edu)  
318.342.1798