

Van T. La

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Summary of Qualifications:

A highly motivated and knowledgeable biologist with practical experience managing multiple complex projects. Demonstrates leadership ability and collaboration by being lead investigator and co-author of several peer-reviewed papers and projects. An individual with strong analytical skills who works well in all work environments. Personable, with the ability to facilitate and maintain effective working relationships. Recognized for excellent communication skills and recipient of prestigious grants.

Work and Research Experience:

Invited peer-reviewer and editor: 2011-2017, University of Guelph

- Responsible for critically assessing the scientific merit of scientific manuscripts, editing, and providing suggestions for improvement.
- Reviewed manuscripts for the scientific journals such as *Wildlife Research*, *Fisheries Oceanography*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and *Knowledge and Management of Aquatic Ecosystems*, as well as reviewed SR&ED claims for Vialect Inc.

PhD Candidate/Manager of the Wetlands and Waterbirds Project: September 2010-2015, University of Guelph & Forest Ecosystem Science Cooperative (FESC)

- Provided biological expertise and guidance for improving tests of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act at FESC meetings alongside MNRF representatives and stakeholders. Also developed and gave PowerPoint presentations.
- Designed, coordinated, and managed multiple, complex and multi-disciplinary projects including four undergraduate theses, which resulted in four successful defences and one peer-reviewed publication in *Behavioural Processes*. Actively involved in study design, data collection, decision-making, writing, editing, and statistical analysis.
- Identified bias in traditional avian sampling protocols and developed improved and cost-effective acoustic sampling protocols, submitted to the journal *Ecosphere*.
- Reviewed over 150 research papers and 740 species accounts to determine the frequency of nocturnal vocalizations, which resulted in a peer-reviewed publication in *Condor* and a presentation at the 47th Animal Behaviour Society international conference.
- Designed, budgeted, coordinated, and implemented two successful and cost-effective field seasons, consisting of habitat and wildlife surveys in forested landscapes which resulted in over 142 sites completed in less than 11 weeks.
- Collaborated with scientists, stakeholders, and MNRF representatives, which resulted in sharing of data, equipment, and strong working relationships.
- Authored and edited multiple manuscripts and grants, which resulted in winning nationwide prestigious grants such as NSERC.

Teaching Assistant-Community Ecology: Winter 2011, University of Guelph

- Gave weekly presentations and tutorials to over 100 students in the laboratory.
- Evaluated and analyzed project proposals to determine conformity to class objectives in a deadline-driven environment. Oversaw and provided guidance to undergraduate student teams for class assignments, improving to student understanding of material and grades.
- Participated in weekly teaching assistant meetings to give input on how assignments could be improved in collaboration with teaching professors.

MSc. Project Leader of the Common Loon Project: 2008-2010, University of Windsor

- Designed and led two successful field seasons, resulting in 5700 hours of recordings.
- Coordinated and established a good working rapport with landowners, which resulted in permission to use their land for the project.
- Coordinated and established a professional rapport with other scientists, which resulted in permission to borrow equipment and kept field costs at a minimum.
- Exhibited cost-effective problem solving for field situations. Example: designing a motorboat by attaching a motor to a flat-stern canoe.
- Advanced knowledge of freshwater lakes, limnology, and species-at-risk in Ontario.

Fisheries Researcher, 2006-2008, Carleton University

- Reviewed over 200 research papers to identify the causes of fish kills and provided recommendations to improve reporting strategies, which resulted in a publication in *Reviews In Fisheries Science*.
- Collaborated with Dr. Steven Cooke in writing, development of a research manuscript.
- Technical experience using seine nets, fishing, and electrofishing.

Selected Leadership Activities:

Co-Chair President, 2009-2010, Department of Biology Graduate Students' Association, University of Windsor

- Acted as liaison between faculty and students, resulting in effective working relationships and work environment. Mediated sensitive issues such as co-worker incompatibility, resulting in successful project completion.
- Organized and led meetings regarding important decisions such as determining what students wanted in new faculty hires and gained consensus among students.

Vice President, 2007-2008, Carleton Biological Society, Carleton University

- Led and coordinated meetings regarding events and fundraisers and gained consensus among students.
- Developed and organized fundraising events such as "Planet Earth Movie Nights" to raise awareness of ecological impacts among undergraduate students.

Selected Publications:

- **La, V.T. & T.D. Nudds** 2016. Effect of revisitation surveys on the detection of wetland birds with different diel vocalization patterns. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* 7(2): 509-519.
- **La, V.T. & T.D. Nudds**. 2016. Estimation of avian species richness: biases in morning surveys and efficient sampling from acoustic recordings. *Ecosphere* 7(4): e01294.
- **Lenske, A. & La, V.T.** 2014. White-throated sparrows alter songs differentially in response to chorusing anurans and other noise. *Behavioural Processes* 105: 28-35.
- **La, V.T.** 2012. Diurnal and nocturnal birds vocalize at night: a review. *Condor* 114(2):245-257.
- **La, V.T. & T. D. Nudds**. 2011. Finding effective ways to monitor waterbirds in timber-harvested wetlands. Algonquin Provincial Park. Wildlife Research Station Report.
- **La, V.T. & S.J. Cooke**. 2011. Advancing the science and practice of fish kill investigations. *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 19:21-33.

Selected Presentations:

- **La, V.** 2012. Forest Co-op Wetlands and Waterbirds Project. FESC Science Day 2012. Valhalla Inn. Thunder Bay. October 17 2012.
- **La, V.** 2011. Forest Co-op Wetlands and Waterbirds Project. FESC Science Day 2011. Delta Conference Centre. Sault St. Marie. November 2 2011.
- **La, V.** 2010. Diurnal and nocturnal birds vocalize at night. Animal Behaviour Society 47th Annual Meeting. College of William and Mary. July 26 2010.

Selected Awards and Achievements:

- National awards: NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship, 2011-2015
 - Awarded to top-ranking applicant in their field of study in Canada.
- Provincial awards: Ontario Graduate Scholarship, awarded three consecutive years, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012
 - Awarded to top-ranking applicants in Ontario.

Education:

PhD Integrative Biology, 2010-2015, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

MSc Biological Sciences, 2008-2010, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

BSc Honours Biology, 2004-2008, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Languages:

Beginner French, Conversational Vietnamese