

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship



We are pleased to announce that **Hannah Henry** is the recipient of the 25th annual scholarship for undergraduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Hannah is a recent graduate of UF, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, with minors in Economics and International Studies in Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Through the Avian Behavioral Ecology and Conservation Lab, Hannah worked with Dr. Kathryn Sieving to analyze vocal complexity in perching songbirds. Vocal recordings of wild Carolina chickadees and tufted titmice were processed using trained AI models to characterize the calls. As an intern in the UF Sea Turtle research program, Hannah helped complete boat surveys looking for sea turtles, recorded habitat conditions, collected biological samples, and applied satellite tracking tags. She also spent a summer working to assess the relative abundance and distribution of the St. Vincent Amazon parrot, investigating the main drivers of its decline, and identifying the most effective mitigation strategies to support population growth. For the last 2 years, she worked at the FWC Ocala Conservation Center as a part-time environmental educator.

Hannah's long-term career goal is to serve the public as a wildlife administrator with a federal government agency. She is currently a fully funded Wildlife MS student at the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and the Environment managing an externally funded scientific grant which is the first of its kind after the BP Oil Spill to study human-wildlife conflicts in the Gulf of Mexico. She is improving the lives of dolphins and sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico by managing and implementing a large-scale survey of key wildlife stakeholders, working with federal and state regulators, to reduce human-wildlife conflict through voluntary behavior changes. Her research will go on to be the first of its kind, determining where coastal tourists and wildlife tour operators get their information from, and how willing they are to alter behaviors that may lead to protecting dolphins and turtles for the next generation.

The FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarship was established in 1998 to recognize and financially assist undergraduate students pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida, during their Junior or Senior year. In 2008, the scholarship was renamed the *Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship* in honor of 3 FAU students tragically lost during a wading bird survey. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, financial need, personal goals, contribution to Florida wildlife and a letter of reference from a wildlife professional. The Florida Wildlife Federation co-sponsors the scholarship. As this year's recipient, **Hannah** will receive a check for \$1,500. She will be recognized at the FLTWS Spring Conference, March 22-24 in Jacksonville.

To attend our Spring Conference, register at: <https://fltws.org/>.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee