

Michelle Masselink

B.Sc., M.Sc.
Associate, Masselink Environmental Design

Biography

Michelle has worked as a wildlife ecologist and biologist throughout British Columbia for over 15 years. Michelle is a highly regarded field ecologist and ornithologist with extensive field and research experience. She has established and conducted wildlife and habitat surveys for nearly every project she has been involved with and for many of these projects developed, or helped develop monitoring and data management protocols. Michelle currently is responsible for **Masselink Environmental Design's** ecosystem and habitat research, assessment and monitoring work.

Experience

Associate **Masselink Environmental Design,**
Pender Island & Victoria, BC, Canada

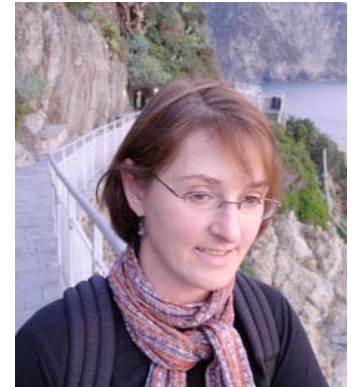
2008 **Various Landowners, Pender Island, BC**
Providing baseline ecological/habitat assessments to support the establishment of conservation covenants (In process).

Coastal Waterbird Survey, Pender Island, BC
Assisting with the delivery of the BC Coastal Waterbird Surveys for the Canadian Wildlife Service on N. Pender Island as a volunteer (Since 2004).

2007 **Various Landowners, Pender Island, BC**
Provided initial and comprehensive baseline ecological/habitat assessments for four properties to support the establishment of conservation covenants.

Career Summary

Wildlife Ecologist **Alula Consulting,** 2004 - 2007
Pender Island, BC.
Subcontractor for the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team. Monitored Sharp-tailed Snake presence at various sites on North and South Pender Islands.



EDUCATION

*M.Sc. Biology
University of Victoria, 2001*

*B.Sc. Biology
University of Victoria, 1990*

*General Programme
Universite Canadienne en
France, Nice, France, 1988*



MASSELINK
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- Wildlife Ecologist** **BC Parks,**
Victoria, BC. 2002
Under contract responsible for the compilation of forest bird data from studies conducted in Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park. Performed preliminary analysis on the relative abundance of avian species in the park area. Produced a summary report which included distribution maps, a checklist (The Birds of Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park) and draft brochure document.
- Wildlife Ecologist** **Research Group on Introduced Species,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1999 & 2001
Under contract conducted forest bird and vegetation surveys on several islands in the Laskeek Bay area of Haida Gwaii as part of a multifaceted 5-year study examining the effects of deer on island ecosystems.
- Wildlife/Habitat Inventory Specialist** **Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks,**
Prince George, BC. 1995 -1996
Responsible for planning, coordinating and delivering part of the Omineca Region Inventory Program through Forest Renewal BC (FRBC). Developed regional inventory plan; formed partnerships, provided leadership, support and guidance to partner agencies; and developed and wrote FRBC funding proposals on behalf of the Ministry.
- Assistant Field Biologist** **BC Conservation Foundation/BC Ministry of Forests,** Desolation Sound, BC. 1995
Part of a field team collecting data for a multi-year Marbled Murrelet demographic study in Desolation Sound, BC. Field duties included: mist-netting, banding, radio-tagging and taking blood samples of murrelets; telemetry tracking of tagged birds, aerial and at-sea; and seabird surveys.
- Wildlife/Habitat Technician** **Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks,**
Prince George, BC. 1993 - 1995
Provided technical support for both the Wildlife and Habitat Sections. Large projects undertaken included organization and summary of 10 years of wildlife inventory and an impact assessment of proposed Protected Areas on trappers and guides in the Omineca and Peace Regions.
- Field Biologist** **Canadian Wildlife Service,**
Prince George, BC. 1994
Under contract to investigate Tree Swallows as a possible indicator species of pulp mill toxins in the Fraser River near Prince George, BC.

- Wildlife Ecologist** **Canadian Wildlife Service,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1993
Under contract as part of a Rhinoceros Auklet feasibility study conducted extensive raccoon surveys on seabird colony islands in Englefield Bay on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.
- Wildlife Ecologist** **Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1992
Under contract conducted an inventory of seabird colony islands along the east coast of Gwaii Haanas, National Park Reserve for the presence of raccoons. Work included field study design and preparation; establishment of permanent monitoring transects; project management (including field crew) and budgeting; data collection, summary report and recommendations.
- Wildlife Ecologist** **Laskeek Bay Conservation Society,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1992
Assisted with all aspects of research conducted by the Society in the Laskeek Bay area and at Limestone Island research station. Duties included monitoring the breeding success and population changes of Ancient Murrelets and a number of other local animals and plants.
- Research Assistant** **Kallahin Surveying Inc.,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1992
Conducted wildlife surveys in old growth riparian and second growth areas on Graham and Moresby Islands in the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Bird and vegetation identification along with animal sign interpretation were required. Co-authored two summary reports on the data collected and produced an annotated bibliography.
- Research Assistant** **Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks,**
Haida Gwaii, BC. 1990 - 1991
Investigated the predatory behaviour and dispersal of raccoons along the southeast portion of the Haida Gwaii archipelago to determine the impact of this species on globally significant seabird colonies found throughout this region. Duties included tracking radio-collared raccoons, operation inflatable boats and the establishment and management of remote field camps.



Presentations

- 2001** **Responses by Steller's Jays to Fragmentation of Coastal Forests and the Predation Risk They Pose to Marbled Murrelets**
Annual Meeting of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, March 28-30, 2001. Victoria, BC.
- 1999** **Steller's Jay Ecology in Fragmented Forests of Coastal BC, with Implications for Marbled Murrelets**
Pacific Seabird Group 26th Annual Meeting, February 24-28, 1999. Blaine, WA.
- 1998** **Steller's Jays, What Marbled Murrelets and Other Forest Birds Should Know**
Victoria Natural History Society, Victoria, BC.
- 1997** **Abundance and Distribution of Steller's Jays in Fragmented Forests of Southwest Vancouver Island, BC**
Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC & Pacific Ecology Conference, Bamfield, BC.

Writings

- In prep.** **Masselink, M.N.** and A.E. Burger. In prep. "Abundance and distribution of Steller's Jays relative to anthropogenic disturbance on southwest Vancouver Island, British Columbia."
- 2004** Burger, A.E., **M.N. Masselink**, A.R. Tillmans, A.R. Szabo, M. Famholtz, and M.J. Krkosek. "Effects of habitat fragmentation and forest edges on predators of Marbled Murrelets and other forest birds on southwest Vancouver Island." In T.D. Hooper, Editor. *Proceedings of the Species at Risk 2004 Pathways to Recovery Conference, March 2-4, 2004*. Victoria, BC.
- 2002** **Masselink, M.N.** Birds of Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park: Relative abundance, distribution and habitat associations. Prepared for British Columbia Parks (Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection) South Vancouver Island District, Victoria, BC.
- 1997** Gaston, A.J. and **M. Masselink**. The impact of raccoons, *Procyon lotor* on breeding seabirds at Englefield Bay, Haida Gwaii, Canada. *Bird Conservation International* 7: 35-51.
- 1992** **vandenBrink, M.N.*** 1992. Raccoon-seabird interactions on the Queen Charlotte Islands: assessing the risk. Report for the 1992 synoptic survey. Prepared for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Smithers Region. Unpublished report.

*maiden name

