



Jennifer Ackerman has been writing about science, nature and human biology for almost 30 years. Her work aims to explain and interpret science for a lay audience and to explore the riddle of humanity's place in the natural world, blending scientific knowledge with imaginative vision. A contributor to *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times* and many other publications, Jennifer is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Nonfiction, a Bunting Fellowship and a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. She has written on subjects ranging from the microbiome of the human body, the evolutionary origin of birds, the wildlife of Japan, the work of Chuck Close, the sexual habits of dragonflies and the neural nature of dyslexia. *The Genius of Birds* has been translated into more than 20 languages, was named one of the best nonfiction books of 2016 by the Wall Street Journal and was long listed by the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science

Writing Award. She is also the author of *Sex Sleep Eat Drink Dream: A Day in the Life of Your Body*; *Ah-Choo: The Uncommon Life of Your Common Cold*; *Chance in the House of Fate: A Natural History of Heredity*; and *Notes from the Shore*. Photo by Robert Llewellyn

Dr. Amy Johnson is a conservation ecologist and program director of Smithsonian's Virginia Working Landscapes program. In this role, Amy cultivates a dynamic network of private landowners, citizen scientists, NGOs, state agencies and research scientists to collaboratively study and promote the sustainable use of Virginia's landscapes for the conservation of native biodiversity. While earning her doctorate at George Mason University, Amy's research focused on the impacts of conservation and land management on breeding and over-wintering grassland bird communities in Virginia. In her current role, she continues to explore knowledge gaps pertaining to grassland bird ecology by facilitating collaborative conservation and research efforts with Smithsonian scientists and local partners. Her current research projects focus on full annual cycle modeling of grassland birds and exploring best management practices for optimizing reproductive success in species that nest in working grasslands. Amy received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, and a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University.



Stephen Living is the Habitat Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. He works to promote beneficial habitat practices across the commonwealth and highlight the excellent habitat work of the department and its partners. Stephen has been with the agency for 15 years and has previously served as a regional lands and access manager and as a biologist in the Watchable Wildlife program. He has extensive habitat experience including longleaf pine restoration, wetland management, prescribed fire and timber management. Stephen has worked with a variety of species including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, prothonotary warblers and red-cockaded woodpeckers. He completed his Master of Science in

Biology at Southern Connecticut State University. His professional experience includes consulting in habitat management and invasive species control, environmental education, university instruction, and leading a wide variety of natural history trips.

Dr. Christine Sheppard's first career was as curator of birds for the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo. In 2007 Christine joined the board of the Bird-safe Glass Foundation as science advisor. In 2009 she moved to the American Bird Conservancy as collisions program director. She has led instrumental bird collision mitigation efforts including evaluation of materials, the publication *Bird-friendly Building Design*, LEED Pilot Credit 55: Bird Collision Deterrence -- an AIA/LEED continuing education class -- and consulting on related legislation throughout the U.S. She earned her bachelor's and doctorate at Cornell.

