



## Jason P. Ritzert, *Senior Biologist/Project Manager*

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015-Present	<i>Senior Biologist/Project Manager, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., Lemoine, Pennsylvania</i>
2008-2015	<i>Research Biologist/Project Manager, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., Bloomington, Indiana</i>
2008	<i>Field Technician, Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc., Cheyenne, Wyoming</i>
2007	<i>Biological Technician, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Winchester, Kentucky</i>
2006	<i>Research Assistant, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky</i>
2002-2005	<i>North Pacific Ground Fish Observer, Saltwater Inc., Anchorage, Alaska</i>
2001	<i>Biological Technician, United States Forest Service, Hot Springs, Virginia</i>
2000	<i>Research Assistant, Ferrum College, Ferrum, Virginia</i>
1999-2000	<i>Biological Technician, General Scientific Corporation, California, Maryland</i>

### EDUCATION

M.S.  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Richmond, Kentucky  
2010  
Biology

B.S.  
Ferrum College  
Ferrum, Virginia  
2002  
Environmental Sciences

### SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

The Ecological Society of America  
Bat Conservation International  
The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles  
National Wind Coordinating Collaborative  
American Wind Energy Association

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Training  
Indiana DOT: CE and NEPA Training  
Bat Study Techniques Workshop: special focus on the endangered Indiana bat

### SPECIALTY AREAS

**Wind Energy:** Mr. Ritzert has a diverse biological background with extensive experience with wind energy development impacts to birds and bats in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwestern US. He has prepared agency reviewed/approved work plans to conduct pre- and post-construction wildlife surveys per the USFWS Wind-Energy Guidelines, USFWS Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance (ECPG), USFWS Indiana Bat/Northern Long-eared Bat Guidance, and NYSDEC wind-wildlife guidelines as well as follow-up reporting to meet survey objectives. These surveys include eagle use surveys, aerial and ground-based eagle/raptor nest surveys, breeding bird surveys, raptor migration surveys, waterfowl surveys, nocturnal radar surveys, general avian use surveys, winter grassland raptor surveys, mist-net surveys, bat acoustic surveys, habitat assessments (field and desktop for federally and state-listed species), and post-construction monitoring. Mr. Ritzert has completed or managed pre and/or post-construction surveys at over 50 proposed or built wind projects across 16 states.

**Avian Studies:** Mr. Ritzert has experience working with bald and golden eagles following the USFWS ECPG and designing various work plans to meet USFWS objectives as well as designing/implementing various avian work plans to survey for federally and state-listed avian species (northern harrier, upland sandpiper, Henslow's sparrow, and red-cockaded woodpecker) breeding bird surveys, wintering grassland raptor surveys, spring and fall raptor migration surveys following Hawk Migration Association of North America protocols, waterbird/waterfowl surveys, nocturnal playback surveys for owls, and post-construction surveys. In addition, Jason has developed the following documents for wind projects: Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies, Eagle Conservation Plans, and Eagle Management Plans.

**Bat Studies:** Mr. Ritzert is a USFWS permitted bat biologist as well as a Pennsylvania Qualified Bat Surveyor with extensive experience working with bat species in the eastern US. This includes habitat assessments for Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and eastern small-footed bat, mist-netting for bats, harp-trapping for bats, conducting acoustic bat studies (presence/absence surveys as well as passive bat acoustic monitoring), completing roost telemetry, completing foraging telemetry, emergence counts, and post-construction monitoring at proposed or constructed wind energy facilities.

**Other Wildlife Species:** Mr. Ritzert is an experienced project manager and biologist of other wildlife species that may be impacted by wind projects. These include Franklin's ground squirrel, ornate box turtle, green salamanders, Allegheny woodrat, slippershell mussel, and mudpuppy. He has completed habitat assessment and surveys to determine if these species will be directly or indirectly impacted by proposed wind projects.