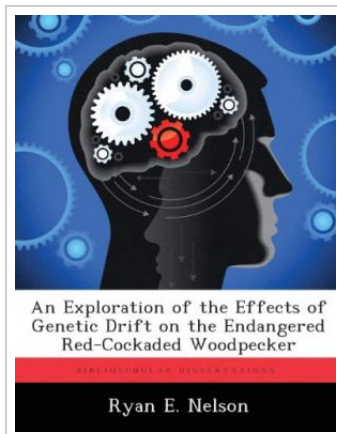




An Exploration of the Effects of Genetic Drift on the Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (Paperback)

By Ryan E Nelson

Biblioscholar, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*) is classified as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The RCW is endemic to the longleaf pine forests of the southeastern United States. The two main factors contributing to the RCW population declines are the suppression of natural wildfires during the 1900s and the habitat fragmentation due to inappropriate timber harvest techniques. Given the endangerment of the RCW, the genetic variation of the small populations will decrease over time due to random genetic drift. The only method of battling the negative effects of random genetic drift is to move, or translocate, genetically diverse birds into the fragmented populations thereby increasing the genetic diversity of the small populations. The objective of this research effort is to explore the effects of random genetic drift on small RCW populations and to determine the most efficient management strategies to be used in different situations.



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