

Graham Montgomery

Graduate Assistant, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

University of California, Los Angeles

(281) 990-3292

graham.montgomery@ucla.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (Sep 2019- present)

PhD student, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**Moved from University of Connecticut to UCLA with PhD advisor*

University of Connecticut (Aug 2018- Aug 2019)

PhD student, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

GPA 4.0/4.0

Cornell University (Aug. 2011- Jan. 2015)

B.S. in Biology (Concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) and B.S. in Entomology
with Distinction in Research

GPA 3.47/4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles Research/Teaching Assistant Sep 2019-present

-Research and teaching as I pursue a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

-Teaching Assistant: LS 7B (Genetics, Evolution, & Ecology, Winter 2020)

University of Connecticut Graduate/Teaching Assistant, Aug 2018-Aug 2019

-Research and teaching as I pursue a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

-Teaching Assistant: Methods of Ecology (20 hrs/week) – Morgan Tingley

-Graded assignments, held office hours, drove UConn vans for field trips, provided individualized instruction. Received commendation for teaching from the Provost's office.

-Teaching Assistant: Ornithology (20 hrs/week) – Margaret Rubega

-Graded assignments, held office hours, drove UConn vans for field trips, provided supplemental instruction in lab and lecture, gave one lecture. Received commendation for teaching from the Provost's office.

Institute for Bird Populations point counts, Apr 2018- Jul 2018 (Seasonal Biologist). Apr

2017- Jul 2017 (Seasonal Biologist). Apr 2016- Aug 2016 (Crew Co-leader). Apr 2015- Aug

2015 (Intern)

-Conducted avian point counts in the backcountry of Olympic, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, Sequoia/King's Canyon and Yosemite National Parks in Washington and California

- Trained crews (in 2016 & 2017) to become “fluent” in western bird vocalizations and conduct point counts; ability to identify almost all western birds by sight and sound (including calls) necessary.
- Involved backpacking up to 20 miles/day with 40lb pack, planning up to 7-day trips, GPS, spot-locator and radio use, and park service safety protocols, all in challenging conditions like extreme heat, storms, wind, smoke, etc.

McAllen Nature Center instructor (City of McAllen, TX), Dec 2017- Apr 2018

- Environmental education/interpretation for kids and adults
- Led programs: biweekly bird walks, general nature walks, wildlife photography, and geocaching
- Other duties included habitat restoration, manning reception desk, and creating short promotional videos
- also led bird walks at the Frontera Audubon Center

University of Rhode Island point count technician, Sep 2017- Nov 2017

- Conducted avian point counts across Rhode Island, with an emphasis on warblers and other migrants; also concurrently conducted basic invertebrate & plant surveys

University of British Columbia research assistant, Feb 2016- Apr 2016, Dec 2016- Mar 2017, Aug 2017- Sep 2017

- Primarily solo fieldwork in Costa Rica, Panamá, Ecuador, and Peru; Mostly avian playback experiments, but also mist-netting
- Required quickly learning dozens/hundreds of new bird vocalizations as I moved from region to region and dedication to collecting high quality data
- Also involved independent logistical planning (can be a challenge in Latin America), remote areas, self-motivation, & sometimes-difficult work conditions from the tropical rainforest to the high Andes

Texas Tech University field assistant, Dec 2015- Jan 2016

- Duck monitoring in rural Texas using aerial drones
- Sampled ponds for invertebrates, hitched trailers, drove UTVs, interacted with private landowners

University of Pittsburgh research assistant, Oct 2015- Dec 2015

- Worked for the Jonathan Pruitt Lab investigating social spider behavior in South Africa; involved collecting spiders in the field and then collecting data on their behavior in the lab

National Park Service biological science aid, Aug 2015- Sep 2015

- Worked in Olympic National Park as a crew member for the fisher monitoring project
- Hiking 20+ miles/day with 60lb pack, set up camera traps, fur snares, bait
- Drove government vehicles

Cornell University Department of Entomology, Aug 2011- Dec 2015

- Molecular lab assistant, field assistant, and databaser in Dr. Bryan Danforth's native bee lab.
- Gained experience extracting DNA, running PCRs, gel electrophoresis, sequencing DNA, running phylogenetic analyses (parsimony, maximum likelihood, and Bayesian approaches), writing and preparing manuscripts

Cornell Lab of Ornithology field assistant, June 2014

- Conducted point counts and playback experiments in the Adirondacks for a research project with a focus on interspecific competition between Bicknell's and Swainson's Thrushes

Cornell Lab of Ornithology website editor (AllAboutBirds.org), Nov 2013- Dec 2014

- Duties involved uploading photos and information to the popular AllAboutBirds online bird guide (run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

PRESENTATIONS

- Cornell Undergraduate Research Symposium
- UConn EEB Department Tuesday Evening Seminar
- UConn EEB Graduate Student Symposium
- UCLA EEB Eco-Evo Pub
- Entomological Society of America Conference 2021: invited speaker for a symposium on insect declines

FUNDING

- Cornell Summer Institute for Life Sciences (\$3000)
- UConn Fellowship application award (\$1000)
- Explorer's Club Mamont Scholar (\$2500)
- Lewis & Clark Society award (\$3300)
- SysRev.org grant for systematic review (\$1000); with Eliza Grames
- Appalachian Highlands Research reimbursements (\$1800)
- Wilson Ornithological Society Fuertes grant (\$2500)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

- Peer-reviewer for: Behavioral Ecology, Biological Conservation, Journal of Avian Biology, Tropical Conservation Science, Insect Conservation & Diversity, Landscape Research, Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment
- Member of: American Ornithological Society, Connecticut Entomological Society, Wilson Ornithological Society, Entomological Society of America
- Grad student representative on UCLA Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (COLASC)

TEACHING, MENTORSHIP, & OUTREACH

- Teaching assistant for: Insect Biology (Cornell), Methods of Ecology (UConn), Ornithology (UConn), Genetics, Ecology, & Evolution (UCLA)
- Mentor and supervise 8 undergraduates for my research program at UCLA
- Mentor for UConn Connects, a program connecting faculty with students struggling academically (2019)
- 1st grade ESL classroom helper (Fall 2014)
- UConn Provost's Commendation for Teaching: Fall 2018, Spring 2019
- Led iNaturalist data workshop for 80 educators in partnership with NPS (2021)

OTHER ACTIVITIES & SKILLS

- Discoveries: an undescribed species of leafhopper (*Necoelidia* sp.), springtail (*Seira* sp.), & psyllid (Psyllinae sp.) in addition to many state and country records for other insect taxa
- Avian point counts, bird identification and birding worldwide
- Leading birding field trips (field trip coordinator for Bruin Birding Club 2020-present)
- Some bird banding experience (extracted ~200 birds)
- Wilderness skills; backpacking, hiking, camping, kayak touring, sea kayaking, wilderness first aid certified
- Community science: see [BugGuide](#) (editor for 12+ years), [eBird](#), and [iNaturalist](#)
- Nature photography and videography: see [Flickr](#), cover of Behavioral Ecology [Sept/Oct. 2019](#), and images in books including Beetles of Eastern North America

PUBLICATIONS

Freeman, B. G., J. Rolland, **G. A. Montgomery**, and D. Schluter. 2022. Faster evolution of a pre-mating reproductive barrier is not associated with faster speciation rates in New World passerine birds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 289:20211514.

Montgomery, G. A., M. W. Belitz, R. P. Guralnick, and M. W. Tingley. 2021. Standards and Best Practices for Monitoring and Benchmarking Insects. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 8:579193.

Montgomery, G. A., Dunn, R. R., Fox, R., Jongejans, E., Leather, S. R., Saunders, M. E., ... D.L. Wagner. 2019. Is the insect apocalypse upon us? How to find out. *Biological Conservation*, 108327. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108327>

Wright, C. M., Lichtenstein, J. L., Luscuskie, L. P., **Montgomery, G. A.**, Geary, S., Pruitt, J. N., ... & Keiser, C. N. (2019). Spatial proximity and prey vibratory cues influence collective hunting in social spiders. *Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution*, 1:1-6.

Herrera E.* & **Montgomery G.A.*** 2019. Double Whammy: Rediscovery of two rare arachnids in the US 80 years after description. *Journal of Arachnology*. In review.

Montgomery, G. A., F. Spooner, and B. G. Freeman. 2018. Apparent cooperative breeding at a nest of the Silvery-throated Jay (*Cyanolyca argentigula*) and first nest description. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 130:543–547.

Freeman, B. G., and **G. A. Montgomery**. 2017. Using song playback experiments to measure species recognition between geographically isolated populations: A comparison with acoustic trait analyses. *The Auk* 134:857–870.

Freeman, B. G., **G. A. Montgomery**, and D. Schluter. 2017. Evolution and plasticity: Divergence of song discrimination is faster in birds with innate song than in song learners in Neotropical passerine birds. *Evolution* 71:2230–2242.

Kahnt, B., **G. A. Montgomery**, E. Murray, M. Kuhlmann, A. Pauw, D. Michez, R. J. Paxton, and B. N. Danforth. 2017. Playing with extremes: Origins and evolution of exaggerated female forelegs in South African Rediviva bees. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 115:95–105.

Magnier, B. R., and **G. A. Montgomery**. 2017. Novel Wing-Flashing Behavior in a Scorpionfly (*Panorpa debilis*) May be Competitive. *Journal of Insect Behavior* 30:247–258.

Pauw, A., B. Kahnt, M. Kuhlmann, D. Michez, **G. A. Montgomery**, E. Murray, and B. N. Danforth. 2017. Long-legged bees make adaptive leaps: linking adaptation to coevolution in a plant–pollinator network. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 284:20171707.

Wright, C. M., J. L. L. Lichtenstein, **G. A. Montgomery**, L. P. Luscuskie, N. Pinter-Wollman, and J. N. Pruitt. 2017. Exposure to predators reduces collective foraging aggressiveness and eliminates its relationship with colony personality composition. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 71.

Freeman, B. G., and **G. A. Montgomery**. 2016. Interspecific aggression by the Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) may limit the distribution of the threatened Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) in the Adirondack Mountains. *The Condor* 118:169–178.

Lichtenstein, J. L. L., C. M. Wright, L. P. Luscuskie, **G. A. Montgomery**, N. Pinter-Wollman, and J. N. Pruitt. 2016. Participation in cooperative prey capture and the benefits gained from it are associated with individual personality. *Current Zoology*:zow097.

Hedtke, S. M., E. J. Blitzer, **G. A. Montgomery**, and B. N. Danforth. 2015. Introduction of Non-Native Pollinators Can Lead to Trans-Continental Movement of Bee-Associated Fungi. *PLOS ONE* 10:e0130560.