

Edwin “Elliot” Johnston

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EDUCATION

University of Maine, Orono, ME May 2020
Master of Science in Ecology & Environmental Science

- Thesis: *Rockweed (Ascophyllum nodosum) and Birds in the Intertidal: Assessing the Impacts of Harvest*
 - Advisors: Drs. Brian Olsen and Amanda Klemmer

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA May 2014
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, with distinction

- Cumulative GPA: 3.56/4.00 • Cum Laude • Dean's List 2011, 2012

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Maine, Orono, ME January 2018-Current
M.S. Student

- Designing, executing, and analyzing original research for thesis on rockweed harvest and associated impacts on bird communities. Research includes intertidal bird and algae surveys, purple sandpiper diet analysis, and an experimental study on rockweed harvest.
- Extensive stakeholder engagement, including organization of roundtable discussions and 2020 Rockweed Symposium. Goal is to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders to increase relevancy of research and build relationships.

Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Thunder Bay, Ontario August-September 2017
Banding Volunteer

- Over six weeks, banded 161 passerines and 14 raptors. Extracted ~200 passerines from mist nets
- Other duties include: scribe, data entry with Bandit 4.0 and general station upkeep

Cornell University & Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Milford, PA April-July 2017
Avian Field Technician

- Federally grant-funded, multi-year research project monitoring American Woodcock and Golden-winged Warbler in privately- and publicly-owned forests of various Eastern U.S. states
- Evening counts of American Woodcock and Eastern Whip-poor-will on singing grounds (April/May), morning passerine point count surveys (May/June) and vegetation sampling (June/July)
- Other duties include: data entry, communicating with private land owners and public land managers, extensive navigation using GPS

Hooded Grebe Project, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina January-March 2017
Volunteer

- Breeding colony guardian – daily censuses of Hooded Grebe adults, juveniles, nests, and eggs. Protection of colony from invasive American Mink.
- Member of first team to monitor invasive Rainbow Trout removal from historically important breeding lakes
- Executed program to eradicate invasive American Mink from rivers connecting American Mink populations to Hooded Grebe breeding lakes

Canisius College, Buffalo, NY September-December 2016
Research Assistant for Dr. Sara Morris

- Ran the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) project. Primary goal was collecting data on migrant flight calling behavior at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory in Hilton, NY.
- Collected data on two experiments with different target warbler species: a) playing mixed species calls and recording responses b) playing conspecific calls and recording responses
- Analyzed sound files in Raven Pro 1.5 for different types of responses by warblers

Audubon Society of Portland, Portland, OR

June-August 2015

Environmental Education Intern

- Avian field work included raptor ID in Zumwalt Prairie, seabird ID in San Juan Islands, and wading bird ID along Columbia River
- Assisted Environmental Educators with natural history lesson plans based on weekly themes
- Co-led groups of up to 25 students on week-long outdoor education trips throughout Northwest

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE/TRAINING

Spatial Ecology, Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing for Conservation

October 2017

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Front Royal, VA

- Completed two-week course on geospatial analysis technologies and software programs
- Course focused on addressing conservation research problems using the GIS toolbox, including ArcMap, R Studio, QGIS and Google Earth Engine

North American Ornithological Conference 2016, Washington D.C.

August 2016

Attendee

- Networked with experienced professionals as well as other young professionals to learn about current and future research opportunities

National Outdoor Leadership School, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska

Summer 2005, 2006, 2008

- Completed three month-long courses that focused on leadership and team building
- Backcountry risk assessment for hiking, rafting and sea kayaking

GRANTS & AWARDS

Association of Field Ornithologists and Wilson Ornithological Society Travel Award

June 2018

- \$853 – fully-funded travel award to present poster at 2018 annual meeting in Chattanooga, TN

PRESENTATIONS

“Responses of Warblers to Flight Calls: Does Age Influence the Latency of Response?”

June 2018

Association of Field Ornithologists and Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Chattanooga, TN

- Poster presentation to meeting attendees about flight calling behavior research conducted with Dr. Sara Morris

“Bird Sound: Studying Bird Vocalizations and What It Can Tell Us”

December 2016

Nichols School, Buffalo, NY

- PowerPoint presentation to three middle school science classes about flight calling behavior research conducted with Dr. Sara Morris

FIELD SKILLS

- Banding (161 passerines, 14 raptors)
- Mist net extraction (~200 passerines)
- Passerine and shorebird point count surveys
- Algae (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) biomass assessment
- Vegetation sampling and surveys
- Software: R Studio 1.1, Mark 8.2, ArcMap 10.3, Raven Pro 1.5, Bandit 4.0, Microsoft Excel
- Field crew supervision (colony guardian position at Hooded Grebe Project – supervised team of two)
- Conversationally proficient in Spanish (fall 2012 semester & winter 2017 field work in Argentina)
- Identification of eastern North American passerines and shorebirds by sight and sound
- Hiking and navigating in difficult terrain with GPS
- Strong communicator & member of team-based work

REFERENCES

Dr. Brian Olsen
Assistant Professor of Biology and Ecology
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