

Nicholas J. Russo

PhD Candidate
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Los Angeles

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, CA Ph.D., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, expected 2024 Advisor: Dr. Thomas Smith	Los Angeles, CA 2018-present
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT Bachelor of Science, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology University Scholar, STEM Scholar, Honors Program	Storrs, CT 2014-2018

PUBLICATIONS

- Russo, N.R.**, A.B. Davies, R.V. Blakey, E.M. Ordway, and T.B. Smith. 2022. Feedback loops between 3D vegetation structure and ecological roles of animals. *In Review*.
- Valenti, V.L., E.C. Carcelen, K. Lange, **N.J. Russo**, and B. Chapman. 2020. Leveraging Google Earth Engine user interface for semi-automated wetland classification in the Great Lakes Basin at 10 m with optical and radar geospatial datasets. *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing* 13:6008-6018
- Robertson, M.W.*, **N.J. Russo***, S.J. McInnes, B. Goffinet, and J.E. Jiménez. 2020. Potential dispersal of tardigrades by birds through endozoochory: evidence from sub-Antarctic White-bellied Seedsnipe (*Attagis malouinus*). *Polar Biology* 43:899–902. *Shared first authorship
- Russo, N.J.**, M. Robertson, R. MacKenzie, B. Goffinet, and J.E. Jiménez. 2020. Evidence of targeted consumption of mosses by birds in sub-Antarctic South America. *Austral Ecology* 45:399-403.
- Russo, N.J.**, C.S. Elphick, N.P. Havill, and M.W. Tingley. 2019. Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for the hemlock woolly adelgid. *Biological Invasions* 5:1585-1599.
- Featured by *Audubon*, Feb 20, 2019
- Russo, N.J.**, C.A.S.-J. Cheah, and M.W. Tingley. 2016. Experimental evidence for branch-to-bird transfer as a mechanism for avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid (Hemiptera: Adelgidae). *Environmental Entomology* 45:1107-1114.
- Featured by *Entomology Today*, Aug 1, 2016

INVITED SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

- Internet of Animals Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA. 2022. *Movements of Congo Basin seed dispersers in relation to vegetation structure, phenology, and forest degradation.*
- All-Biology Undergraduate Symposium, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2018. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.*
- Yale-Myers Forest Summer Seminar Series: Eastford, CT, USA. 2017. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.*
- Northeast Natural History Conference, Cromwell, CT, USA. 2017. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.*
- Holster Scholar Project Summer Research Presentations, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2015. *Avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid.*

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

- American Geophysical Union Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA. 2022. *Effects of 3D canopy structure on seed dispersal by hornbills in Cameroon.* Oral presentation.
- Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Remote. 2021. *Movement ecology of hornbills and spatial patterns of seed dispersal in Cameroon.* Oral presentation.
- Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Cape May, NJ, USA. 2019. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.* Oral presentation.
- International Ornithological Congress, Vancouver, BC, CA. 2018. *Consumption of bryophytes by montane, sub-Antarctic birds.* Oral presentation and e-Poster.
- American Ornithological Society Meeting, Tucson, AZ, USA. 2018. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.* Oral presentation.
- Connecticut Entomological Society Meeting, Storrs, CT, USA. 2017. *Avian spring migration as a dispersal mechanism for the hemlock woolly adelgid.* Oral presentation.
- Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Ft. Myers, FL, USA. 2017. *Avian spring migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.* Oral presentation.
- Fall Frontiers Undergraduate Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2016. *Temporal differences in avian dispersal of Adelgidae crawlers.* Poster.
- Fall Frontiers Undergraduate Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2015. *Avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid.* Poster.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“Using Google Earth Engine to Monitor Effects of Climate Change in Cameroon”
Invited Workshop Leader

22-24 June 2021
National Climate Change
Observatory of Cameroon

EEB 100L: Introduction to Ecology and Behavior
Teaching Assistant

Winter 2020, Winter 2019
*Instructors: Dr. Leryn Gorlitsky,
Dr. Alison Lipman*

EEB 151A: Tropical Ecology
Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019
Instructor: Dr. Leryn Gorlitsky

Bird Identification Workshop, Yale-Myers Forest
Workshop Leader

Summer 2018

Bryophyte Ecology, Tracing Darwin's Path,
Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program
Informal Teaching Assistant

Winter 2018
Instructor: Dr. Roy MacKenzie

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Partnership for Forests
Collaborating GIS Scientist

Remote Work

Feb-Aug 2021

NASA DEVELOP Program
Applied Earth Science Intern

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, CA, USA

Jan-Apr 2020

Sustainable Ebony Project
Collaborating Scientist

Congo Basin Institute
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Sept 2018

Bird Genoscape Project
Collaborating Scientist

University of California,
Los Angeles, CA, USA

Apr 2018-present

Great Hollow Ecological Research
Center
Collaborating Scientist

New Fairfield, CT, USA

May-Jun 2018

Sub-Antarctic Biocultural
Conservation Program
Student Researcher

Navarino Island, Chile

Dec 2017-Jan 2018

UConn Writing Center
Writing Tutor

Storrs, CT, USA

Aug 2016-May 2018

Saltmarsh Habitat Avian Research
Program
Volunteer Field Assistant

CT and RI, USA

Jul 2016

National Audubon Society
Volunteer Bird Banding Intern

Sharon, CT, USA

Jun-Aug 2015

Tingley Lab, UConn
Bird Banding Data Specialist

Storrs, CT, USA

Jan 2015-May 2018

Urban Lab, UConn
*Laboratory and Field Analysis
Specialist*

Storrs, CT, USA

Oct 2014-Jan 2016

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020-23 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2020 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (Declined for NSF award)
 - Featured by *UCLA Newsroom*, Aug 27, 2020
2018 Alumni Fellowship, UCLA
2018 Lida Scott Brown Fellowship, UCLA
Awarded to outstanding applicant in avian biology

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2022 Greenville Zoo Conservation Continuing Grant (\$3000)
2022 Explorers Club Exploration Fund (\$4000)
2021 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$965)
2021 Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Award, UCLA (\$1000)
2021-23 NASA ROSES Program Element A.7: Biodiversity, “Understanding seed disperser movements and their consequences across rainforest gradients of structural and phenological diversity” (\$619,840)
PI and Co-PI: T.B. Smith, S. Saatchi
Co-Is: A. Ferraz, E. Ordway, M. Crofoot
Collaborators: **N.J. Russo**, M. Luskin, M. Wikelski, V. Deblauwe, V. Zaunbrecher, M. Lebreton, N. Barbier
- 2020 IDEA Wild (\$1000)
2020 Greenville Zoo Conservation Grant (\$865)
2020 Association for Tropical Biology Seed Grant (\$1000)
2020 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$916)
2020 Hesse Award, American Ornithological Society (\$2500)
2020 Animal Behavior Society (\$1000)
2019 GoFundMe campaign: “Rainforest Bird Research in Cameroon” (\$1650)
2019 Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Award, UCLA (\$2500)
2019 Lida Scott Brown Research Stipend, UCLA (\$1000)
2018 Katie Bu Memorial Fund Botany Award, UConn (\$1480; returned)
2017 Office of Undergraduate Research Supply Award, UConn (\$500)
2017 Jed Burt Mentoring Grant, Wilson Ornithological Society (\$1000)
Advisor: Dr. Morgan Tingley
2017 Great Hollow Ecological Research Center Grant (\$1000)
2017 DeMaio Family Summer Undergraduate Research Fund Award, UConn (\$4000)
2016 IDEA Grant, UConn (\$4000)
2015 Holster Scholar, UConn (\$4000)

CONSERVATION FUNDING

- 2017 Connecticut Ornithological Society Mini-grant, UConn Birding Club (\$400)
Wrote grant proposal and oversaw project to plant native plant species and construct an interpretive panel for the birds of the UConn EcoGarden

TRAVEL FUNDING

- 2022 Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Conference Travel, UCLA (\$1500)
2018 American Ornithological Society Travel Award (\$400)
2017 Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Award, UConn (\$500)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 Phi Beta Kappa
2018 Margaret F. Ertman Award for Excellence in Biology, UConn
Highest honors given to one graduating student for achievement in undergraduate biological research
2018 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Alternate
2018 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
2017 Nancy Klamm Best Undergraduate Student Oral Paper, Wilson Ornith. Soc.
2017 Connecticut Entomological Society Best 5-minute Talk
2017-18 University Scholar, University of Connecticut
Award given annually to 30 UConn students for exceptional engagement in research
2017 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention
2016 Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Environmental Scholar
• Covered by *UConn Today* May 10, 2016
2016 American Ornithologists' Union Student Membership Award
2014-18 UConn STEM Scholarship for Academic Excellence

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019-present Reviewer: *Biological Invasions, Ecology and Evolution, Wilson Journal of Ornithology*
2018-present Bruin Audubon Society and Birding Club, UCLA
Vice President: 2018-2020
2018-present Bruin Naturalists Club, UCLA
Board Member: 2018-present
2017-present Wilson Ornithological Society
Student and Early Professional Board Member: 2018-present
Co-chair: 2020-present

- 2018 Environmental Literacy Task Force, UConn
Designed implementation plan for UConn general education requirement in Environmental Literacy
- 2016-18 UConn ECOalition member
Alliance of environment-focused student organizations, petitioned for general education requirement in Environmental Literacy
- 2015-18 UConn Birding Club: Co-founder and president
- Professional memberships: Animal Behavior Society, American Ornithological Society, Sigma Xi, Wilson Ornithological Society, American Geophysical Union

OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- 2022 Invited guest speaker: Congo Basin Institute Student Association, UCLA
- 2022 Invited guest speaker: School for Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Cameroon
- 2022 Science Education and Sensitization in the “Boucle” Region of Cameroon
- 2021 Invited guest speaker: EEB 151A Tropical Ecology course, UCLA
- 2020 National Audubon Society Birding Buddies: Mentored university student virtually in bird identification
- 2019-20 GreenShorts Environmental Film Contest, UCLA: Mentored two high school students in the creation of an environment-focused short film and judged entries
- 2019 Invited guest speaker: Advanced Business Communication course, Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI, USA
- 2019 Public presentation on radio-tracking birds to community members of Bifolone, Cameroon
- 2015-17 Connecticut BioBlitz: Bird and bryophyte expert and public bird walk leader, 24-hour natural history survey, once per year
- 2015-17 Rhode Island BioBlitz: Bird and bryophyte expert, 24-hour natural history survey, once per year
- 2016-present Christmas Bird Count: Sector leader in Scituate, RI and Chaplin, CT, continually one day per year
- 2016 Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Banded purple martins and Canada geese for annual population survey

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING PROFICIENCY

R; QGIS; Google Earth Engine JavaScript API; Adobe Illustrator

LANGUAGES

English (Native); French (Advanced); Spanish (Rudimentary)