

# Neil Losin

## Curriculum Vitae

### Contact information

Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
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### Undergraduate education

University of Virginia  
B.S. with Distinction (Biology); May 2004

### Graduate education

University of California, Los Angeles  
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Graduate advisor: Dr. Gregory F. Grether  
Enrolled 2006; Ph.D. expected 2012

### Peer-reviewed publications

- Stuart, Y. E., N. Dappen, **N. Losin**. Now you see me: Conspicuousness and predation rates in a highly variable aposematic frog. Submitted to *Animal Behaviour*.
- Grether, G. F., **N. Losin**, C. N. Anderson, K. Okamoto. 2009. The role of interspecific interference competition in character displacement and the evolution of competitor recognition. *Biological Reviews* 84:617-635.
- Krakauer, A. H., M. Tyrrell, K. Lehmann, **N. Losin**, F. Goller, G. L. Patricelli. 2009. Vocal and anatomical evidence for two-voiced sound production in the greater sage-grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus*. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 212:3719-3727.
- Narins, P. M., **N. Losin**, C. E. O'Connell-Rodwell. 2008. Seismic and Vibrational Signals in Animals. In *The New Encyclopedia of Neuroscience*. Ed. Larry Squire *et al.* Elsevier, 2008.
- Losin, N.**, C. H. Floyd, T. E. Schweitzer, S. J. Keller. 2006. Relationship between aspen heartwood rot and the location of cavity excavation by a primary cavity-nester, the Red-naped Sapsucker. *Condor* 108:706-710.
- T. M. Blackburn, K. E. Jones, P. Cassey **N. Losin**. 2004. The influence of spatial resolution on macroecological patterns of range size variation: a case study using parrots (Psittaciformes) of the world. *Journal of Biogeography* 31:285-293.
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### Posters and scientific talks

- Losin, N. Now you see me: Predator vision, detectability, and the evolution of diverse aposematic colors in *Dendrobates pumilio*. Presentation given at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Behavioral Ecology Congress (2010) in Perth, Western Australia.
- Losin, N. Interspecific interference competition between *Anolis sagrei* and *Anolis cristatellus* in South Florida. Poster presented at the 2009 *Anolis* Symposium in Cambridge, MA.
- Losin, N., C. N. Anderson, K. Okamoto, G. F. Grether. Agonistic character displacement: An evolutionary mechanism underlying the evolution of competitor recognition. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Behavioral Ecology Congress (2008) in Ithaca, NY.
- Dappen, N., Y. E. Stuart, N. Losin. The effectiveness of novel aposematic coloration in deterring predators of the strawberry poison dart frog. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Behavioral Ecology Congress (2008) in Ithaca, NY.

## **Fellowships and grants**

- Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid of Research (2010)
  - National Geographic Society: Young Explorers Grant (2009)
  - American Philosophical Society: Lewis and Clark Grant (2009)
  - UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: Lida Scott Brown Research Award (2009, 2008, 2007)
  - American Museum of Natural History: Frank Chapman Grant (2009)
  - American Museum of Natural History: Collection Study Grant (2008)
  - AAAS Pacific Division: Alan E. Leviton Student Research Award (2008)
  - Los Angeles Audubon Society: Ralph Schreiber Ornithology Research Award (2008)
  - Explorers Club: Exploration Fund Grant (2007)
  - American Ornithologists' Union: Research Award (2007)
  - National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowship (2008-2011)
  - UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: Lida Scott Brown Fellowship for Avian Studies (2006-2011)
  - UCLA Graduate Division: Pauley Fellowship, 2006-2008
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## **Other academic awards**

- UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: A. M. Schechtman Award for Distinguished Teaching (2009)
  - Best Undergraduate Presentation, 2004 University of Virginia Department of Environmental Sciences Research Symposium
  - Best Undergraduate Presentation, 2003 University of Virginia Department of Environmental Sciences Research Symposium
  - University of Virginia Echols Scholar (2001-2004)
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## **Research experience prior to Ph.D. dissertation**

- Laboratory and field technician for Dr. Gail Patricelli, University of California, Davis. Project: The effect of anthropogenic noise on acoustic communication in the Greater Sage-Grouse. Responsibilities: study design; construction / maintenance of autonomous recording units; noise propagation studies; GPS surveys; behavioral observations and census of sage grouse leks; supervision of field assistants. Locations: Davis, California (lab) and Lander, Wyoming (field) (October 2005-July 2006).
- Extension of 2003 REU project: "Relationship between aspen heartwood rot and the location of cavity excavation by a primary cavity-nester, the Red-naped Sapsucker." Location: Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, Colorado (July-August 2004, August 2005). Results published in *Condor* in 2007.

- Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory REU. Independent research with advisor Dr. Chris Floyd (Dept. of Biology, University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire): "Spatial distribution and nest site selection in a Colorado cavity-nesting bird community." Location: Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, Colorado (June-August 2003).
  - Blandy Experimental Farm REU. Independent research with advisor Dr. David Carr (Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Virginia): "Genetic variability at individual and population scales: Implications of host inbreeding and founder effects for aphid herbivory on *Mimulus ringens*." Location: University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia (May-August 2002).
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### **Teaching experience and service**

- November 2010: Delivered an invited guest lecture ("The Science of Bird Song") at the monthly meeting of the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society.
  - Winter 2009: Teaching assistant for *EEB 132: Field Behavioral Ecology*. First 3 weeks of the quarter: taught two 180-minute discussion sections per week (topics: field biology methods, statistics, experimental design). Second 3 weeks: traveled to Makerere University Biological Field Station in Kibale National Park, Uganda, mentored students conducting independent research projects. Final 3 weeks: advised students as they analyzed their field data and prepared a final research paper and presentation.
  - November 2007: Delivered an invited guest lecture ("The Science of Bird Song") at a concert celebrating the music of Olivier Messiaen, a 20<sup>th</sup> century composer whose work was heavily influenced by birdsong. Hosted by the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.
  - Fall 2007, Winter 2010, Winter 2011: Teaching assistant for *EEB 100: Introduction to Ecology and Behavior*. Taught 2 to 6 110-minute or 50-minute discussion sections per week (20-24 students each); prepared short lectures and led discussions and lab exercises; helped to design and administer exams.
  - Spring 2003 to present: Gave 13 invited lectures to high school groups (biology classes and extra-curricular science organizations). Topics have included: my own research (various projects), bird song, statistics and experimental design, and how to become involved in research as a high school or college student.
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### **Popular publications**

- N. Losin. 2011. "There Goes the Neighborhood: Understanding territoriality in bird communities." *Living Bird*, scheduled for Spring 2011 issue.
- N. Losin. 2011. "Underground Owl." *Birders World*, February 2011. (with 3 photographs by the author, including the front cover photo)
- N. Losin. 2010. "Hotspots Near You: Franklin Canyon." *Birders World*, June 2010 (with 2 photographs by the author).
- N. Losin. 2009. "Hotspots Near You: Malibu Lagoon." *Birders World* April 2009 (with 1 photograph by the author)
- N. Losin. 2007. "King of the Western Sage: The Life and Plight of North America's Largest Grouse." *Living Bird* 26(3):10-19. (with 8 photographs by the author)

## **Other photo credits**

Magazines: *New Scientist*, *Science et Vie Junior*, *Birders World*, *Living Bird*, *High Country News*, *Discover* online, *Science News* online

Books: *Speciation in Birds* (Trevor Price; Roberts & Company 2007), *The Natural World of Lewis and Clark* (David Dalton; University of Missouri Press 2008), *Bird Coloration* (Geoff Hill; National Geographic Press, 2010), *A Primer of Conservation Behavior* (Daniel T. Blumstein and Esteban Fernández-Juricic; Sinauer, 2010)

Please see <http://www.neillosin.com/> for online photo portfolio.

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## **Photography and science communication**

- January 2011: Developed and launched SustainableFocus.org, a web community promoting visual communication on science, nature, and sustainability. I currently serve as Editor of SustainableFocus.org. In this role, I moderate discussion and media critique forums, solicit original articles from experts in the field, blog, and promote the site through social media.
  - November 2010: Created a website, “Sea To Sky: Birds of the Santa Monica Mountains.” This project, funded partly by the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, resulted in a photo-based website that allows people in Los Angeles to identify and learn more about the common birds of the Santa Monicas and surrounding areas.
  - August 2010: Co-organized and taught a full-day workshop at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual ESA Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA: “Visual Communication of Ecological Knowledge: Photography as a Tool of Style and Substance.” Developed a guide to digital photography for field biologists; led workshop participants in classroom discussions and field exercises with their cameras.
  - February 2010 – present: Maintained a blog on visual communication and science at Day’s Edge Productions. I write about photography, video and multimedia, applications to research and outreach, as well as current evolutionary biology research (my own work included).
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## **Photography and science communication awards**

- Winner, 2010 National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) Evolution Blog contest. Prize: a \$750 travel grant to attend the ScienceOnline2011 conference in North Carolina.
- Recipient, 2010 North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA) College Scholarship: a merit-based scholarship to attend the NANPA Summit in February 2010.
- Grand Prize, Microsoft Future Pro Photographers Competition (2009): one of my images was awarded the top honor in this international student photography competition.
- Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society: Research Grant for photographic project “Sea To Sky: Birds of the Santa Monica Mountains” (2008)
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology “Featured Photographer” for September 2007: see page at [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/bp/losin/index\\_html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/bp/losin/index_html).
- Grand Prize, Birder’s World Photo Contest (2006): one of my images was awarded the top honor in this international bird photography competition.
- Microsoft Merit Award, Microsoft Future Pro Photographers Competition (2006): my photo was one of seven images recognized in this international student photography competition.