

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
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary
Biology (Advisor: Dr. Greg Grether)
Enrolled 2006; Ph.D. expected 2012

Fellowships and Grants

- Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid of Research (2010)
- UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: Lida Scott Brown Research Award (2009)
- American Philosophical Society: Lewis and Clark Grant (2009)
- American Museum of Natural History: Frank Chapman Grant (2009)
- National Geographic Society: Young Explorers Grant (2009)
- American Museum of Natural History: Collection Study Grant (2008)
- AAAS Pacific Division: Alan E. Leviton Student Research Award (2008)
- UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: Lida Scott Brown Research Award (2008)
- Los Angeles Audubon Society: Ralph Schreiber Ornithology Research Award (2008)
- Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society: Research Grant (2008)
- Explorers Club: Exploration Fund Grant (2007)
- American Ornithologists' Union: Research Award (2007)
- UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: Lida Scott Brown 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

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)

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 (ARUs); noise propagation studies; GPS surveys; behavioral observations and surveys of sage grouse leks; supervision of field assistants. Locations: Davis, California (lab) and Lander, Wyoming (field) (October 2005-July 2006).
- Field Technician for Dr. Walt Koenig, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. Responsibilities: nest searching, census, behavioral observation, and banding / bleeding of Acorn Woodpeckers. Location: Hastings Natural History Reservation, California (April-August 2005).
- Field Technician for Dr. Alex Flecker, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University. Responsibilities: census, monitoring, and behavioral observation of river fish and piscivorous birds. Location: Rio Las Marias, Estado Portuguesa, Venezuela (January-March 2005).
- International collaboration with advisor Dr. John Gittleman, Dr. Kate Jones, Dr. Tim Blackburn, Dr. Phillip Cassey. Focus: developing a predictive model to explain extinction threat in the parrots (Psittaciformes) of the world, using intrinsic and anthropogenic factors (January 2003-May 2004).
- 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.
- Field Technician for Dr. Erica Fleishman, Department of Biology, Stanford University. Responsibilities: daily avian point counts, identification of western birds by sight and sound, vegetation surveys and habitat evaluation, backcountry navigation and camping. Location: central Nevada (May-June 2004).
- Laboratory technician for Dr. Doug Taylor, Department of Biology, University of Virginia. Responsibilities: Plant husbandry, DNA extraction, PCR, purification, sequencing, gel electrophoresis (January-April 2004).
- Field Technician for Dr. Deborah Roach, Department of Biology, University of Virginia. Responsibilities: data collection on large experimental plant population: size, census, seed collection, etc. (September-December 2003).
- 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: Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia (May-August 2002).

Peer-reviewed Publications

- 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, and C.E. O'Connell-Rodwell. In press. 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, and 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 and 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.

Posters and Conference Presentations

- 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. W. Okamoto, G. F. Grether. Agonistic character displacement: An evolutionary mechanism underlying the evolution of competitor recognition. *Poster presented at the 12th International Behavioral Ecology Congress in Ithaca, NY.*
- Dappen, N., Y. Stuart, N. Losin. The effectiveness of novel aposematic coloration in deterring predators of the strawberry poison dart frog. *Poster presented at the 12th International Behavioral Ecology Congress in Ithaca, NY.*
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Teaching Experience and Service

- 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, helped students conduct 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 20th century composer whose work was heavily influenced by birdsong (hosted by the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music).
- Fall 2007, Winter 2010: Teaching assistant for *EEB 100: Introduction to Ecology and Behavior*. Taught two 110-minute discussion sections per week (20-24 students each); prepared short lectures and led discussions; helped design and administer exams.
- Spring 2003 to present: Gave 12 invited guest lectures to high school groups (biology classes and extra-curricular science organizations). Topics included my research (various projects); bird song; statistics and experimental design; and becoming involved in research as a high school or college student.

Popular Publications

- N. Losin. In press. "Digging for the Truth: Uncovering the Hidden Lives of Burrowing Owls." *Birders World*, publication scheduled for 2010. (with photographs by the author)
- N. Losin. In press. "Hotspots Near You: Franklin Canyon." *Birders World*, publication scheduled for 2010.
- 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)
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Other photo credits: *New Scientist*, *Science et Vie Junior*, *Birders World*, *Living Bird*, *Discover* online, *Science News* online, *The Natural World of Lewis and Clark* (David Dalton, University of Missouri Press 2008), *Speciation in Birds* (Trevor Price, Roberts & Company 2007), *Bird Coloration* (Geoff Hill, National Geographic Press, scheduled for 2010)

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

Photographic Awards and Other Recognition:

- 2010 North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA) College Scholarship: a merit-based scholarship to attend the NANPA Summit, February 15-20, 2010.
- Grand Prize, Microsoft Future Pro Photographers Competition (2009): one of my images was awarded the top honor in this international student photography competition (see winning image at: http://www.microsoft.com/prophoto/galleries/fppc09_gallery.aspx)
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Featured Photographer" for September 2008: see page at http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/bp/losin/index_html.
- Grand Prize, Birder's World Photo Contest (2007): 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 (see image at: <http://www.microsoft.com/prophoto/profiles/contestwinners.aspx>)