

# Samuel Bressler

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## EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

### Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands

#### Biologist | 2024-Present

- Assisted in development methodology for an avian inventory on Edwards Air Force Base, California.
- Conducted over 600 individual avian point count surveys across base..
- Conducted protocol surveys for tricolored blackbird (state threatened species), as well as other surveys for nocturnal and breeding birds.
- Carried out statistical analyses on data from a vegetation assessment, and wrote up the findings in technical reports.

### LSA Associates, Inc.

#### Biologist | 2023-Present

#### Assistant Biologist | 2020-2023

- Carried out biological services for public and private clients in Southern California, including Caltrans, City of Long Beach, Kiewit, and San Bernardino International Airport.
- Collaborated with clients and agencies to ensure that project activity conformed to existing laws, regulations, and conditions.
- Field tasks included: airport wildlife hazard assessments, avian point counts, nesting bird surveys, least Bell's vireo protocol surveys, burrowing owl protocol surveys, peregrine falcon surveys, invasive plant monitoring, emergent bat surveys, coastal sage scrub and riparian woodland restoration, and general biological monitoring.
- Reporting tasks included: writing high-quality deliverables, such as wildlife hazard assessments, special status protocol survey reports, nesting bird survey memoranda and management plans, biological resource assessments.

## EDUCATION

### M.S. in Biology, University of California, Los Angeles | 2017-2020

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California at Los Angeles

Advisor: Dr. Pamela Yeh; Committee: Drs. Pamela Yeh, Morgan Tingley, Dan Blumstein

Thesis: "Nests in the Cities: Adaptive Phenotypic Plasticity and Convergence in an Urban Bird"

### B.S. in Biology, Magna Cum Laude, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Letters and Sciences

## PUBLICATIONS

**Bressler S. A.**, E.S. Diamant, M.W. Tingley. and P. J. Yeh. 2020. Nests in the cities: adaptive and non-adaptive phenotypic plasticity and convergence in an urban bird. *Proc. R. Soc. B.* 287: 20202122 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.2122>

**Bressler S. A\***, E.S. Diamant\*, C. Cen, and P.J. Yeh. 2023. Phenotypic plasticity in the anthropause: Does reduced human activity impact novel nesting behavior in an urban bird? *Animal Behaviour.* 203: 143-155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2023.06.010>

## COMMUNITY SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

### Founder/Compiler, Puente-Chino Hills Christmas Bird Count | 2020-Present

- Established a new Christmas Bird Count circle in northern Orange County, California to better measure avian status and trends in the region.
- Recruited and managed 60 birdwatchers of varying skill levels to tally birds over a 24-hour period at dozens of birding locations within a 7.5-mile radius circle.
- Used ebird and R to curate the data and submitted all data to the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count portal.

### Assistant Investigator, Seasonal Bird Surveys for Irvine Ranch Conservancy | 2022-Present

- Conducted protocol point count surveys to measure bird abundance, diversity and trends, as part of a 25-year data collection project on behalf of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.
- Identified and counted by sight and sound over 75 breeding, migratory, and wintering bird species native to California chaparral, oak and riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.
- Data used to inform conservation management decisions by the Conservancy.

#### **Waterbird Surveyor, Audubon California | 2022-Present**

- Conducted quarterly surveys for the Salton Sea Conservation Program to measure local abundance of waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds at the Salton Sea to track long-term trends.

#### **SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

##### **Member of Board of Directors, Sea and Sage Audubon Society | 2019-2022**

- Served on Research Committee, evaluated applications for funding by Bloom-Hays grant
- Led workshops on feathers and bird identification for middle- and high-schoolers.
- Led monthly bird walks for the general public at local parks.
- Conducted monthly birdwalks for beginning birders at local parks.
- Wrote a monthly column on rare and unusual bird sightings for chapter newsletter

#### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- **Letter of Commendation**, Sea and Sage Audubon Society Conservation Committee (2023)
- **Burke Grant**, National Audubon Society Plants for Birds Program (2020)
- **Student Research Grant**, Pasadena Audubon Society (2019)
- **Student Research Grant**, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society (2019)
- **Hesse Student Research Award**, American Ornithological Society (2019)
- **Mildred Mathias Student Research Award**, UCLA Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department (2018, 2019)

#### **CERTIFICATIONS**

**Certified Airport Biologist**, Federal Aviation Administration (2023- Present)  
**USGS Banding subpermit #23809-E 9** (2018- Present)  
**CDFW Specific Collection Permit S-183270002-18337-001** (2019-2020)

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

*Patterns, Processes and Drivers of Novel Nesting Behaviors in Urban Dark-eyed Juncos.*  
 Western Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting, July 2023

*The Puente-Chino Hills Christmas Bird Count: to Better Understand the Birdlife of Northern Orange County*

Sea and Sage Audubon Society Conservation Committee Lecture, September 2022

*Nests in the cities: adaptive and non-adaptive phenotypic plasticity and convergence in an urban bird*  
 North American Ornithological Conference, August 2020

#### **SKILLS**

##### Field Skills:

**Identification of North American birds by sight and sound;** Identification of Southern California plants; **Avian point counts;** Protocol surveys for least Bell's vireo and burrowing owl; **Logging field observations using ebird; iNaturalist, and similar apps;** **Auditory avian presence/absence surveys;** Vegetation transects and quadrats; Invasive vegetation identification and removal; Native plant restoration and landscaping; Avian mist-netting, extraction, banding and aging passerines in the hand; **Passerine, raptor, and waterbird nesting bird surveys and monitoring;** Emergent bat surveys; small mammal trapping; **Managing field crews**

##### Other Skills:

Technical writing; Using biodiversity databases to evaluate the likelihood of special status species to occur on project sites; Proficiency with R; Managing biological data; Science and conservation communication; Familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint; Working with local stakeholders toward conservation goals