

*Curriculum vitae*  
**Claire L. O'Connell**

University of Cincinnati  
College of Arts and Sciences  
155 B McMicken Hall  
Cincinnati, OH 45206

• Phone: (615) 574-3456 • Email: [conneca@mail.uc.edu](mailto:conneca@mail.uc.edu) • Website: <https://claireloconnell.github.io/>

## EDUCATION

---

|             |  |                 |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| PhD Student | Sensory Biology and Behavior<br>University of Cincinnati. Cincinnati, OH<br><b>GPA:</b> 4.0/4.0<br>Advisor: Elizabeth Hobson   | <i>Present</i>  |
| B.S.        | Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Concentration: Veterinary Medicine<br>Mississippi State University. Starkville, MS<br><b>GPA:</b> 3.6/4.0<br><b>Independent Project:</b> Horizontal and Vertical Camera Trapping Designs<br>Produce Different Species Richness in Carrion Food Webs<br>Advisor: Marcus Lashley, Leslie Burger | <i>May 2019</i> |

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Affiliative relationships, social networks, dominance hierarchies, group structure and stability

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal Articles

- van der Marel, A., Francis, X., **O'Connell, C. L.**, Estien C. O., Carminito, C., Kluever, B. M., Hobson, E. A., Perturbations highlight importance of social history in parakeet rank dynamics. (2023). *Behavioral Ecology*, arad015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arad015>
- Estien, C. O., **O'Connell, C. L.**, Francis, X., Smith-Vidaurre, G., Kluever, B. M., Hobson, E. A., & van der Marel, A. M.. (2022). Temporary behavioral responses to playbacks by a pest parrot and implications for management. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*, 9(4), 363-384. <https://doi.org/10.26451/abc.09.04.01.2022>
- van der Marel, A., Prasher, S., Carminito, C., **O'Connell, C. L.**, Phillips, A., Kluever, B. M., & Hobson, E. A. (2021). A framework to evaluate whether to pool or separate behaviors in a multilayer network. *Current Zoology*, 67(1), 101–111. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoaa077>
- van der Marel, A., **O'Connell, C. L.**, Prasher, S., Carminito, C., Francis, X., & Hobson, E. A. (2021). A comparison of low-cost behavioral observation software applications for handheld computers and recommendations for use. *Ethology*, 128(3), 275-284. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eth.13251>

## Media

- Van der Marel, Frances et al. (2023): "Gregarious monk parakeets lose social standing during an absence" By Mike Miller. University of Cincinnati News. April 2023
- van der Marel, Prasher et al. (2021): "When push comes to shove, what is a fight?" By Mike Miller. University of Cincinnati News. January 2021  
<https://www.uc.edu/news/articles/2021/01/when-push-comes-to-shove-what-counts-as-a-fight.html>
- van der Marel, O'Connell et al. (2021): "Twitter fight: birds use social networks to pick opponents" By Mike Miller. University of Cincinnati News. June 2020  
<https://www.uc.edu/news/articles/2020/06/n20922241.html>

## **AWARDS / HONORS / Service**

### Honors

- Dean's List, *Mississippi State University* 2018-2019

### Awards

- Wieman-Benedict Award. \$700. August 2022
- Society for the Study of Evolution Scholarship. \$440. April 2021
- American Ornithological Society Student Membership Award 2020
- University of Cincinnati Graduate Student Scholarship 2019 - Present
- Mississippi State University Scholarship 2015-2019

### Service

- Animal Behavior Society Executive Committee. Graduate Student Representative. 2023-present
- Clifton Area Neighborhood Schools Summer Scholars Lectures August 2022

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- O'Connell, C. L.**, Prasher, S., Carminito, C., Francis, X., & Hobson, E. A. Collaboration between behavioral ecologists and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens informs enrichment protocols. Poster presentation. Bearcats at the Zoo. University of Cincinnati March 2023
- O'Connell, C. L.**, van der Marel, A., & Hobson, E. A. Temporal dynamics of novel affiliative relationship formation in monk parakeets. Lightning talk. *Animal Behavior Society Conference. Costa Rica.* July 2022
- O'Connell, C. L.**, van der Marel, A., Prasher, S., Carminito, C., Francis, X., & Hobson, E. A. A comparison of common behavioral observation software applications and recommendations for use. Poster presentation. *Animal Behavior Society Conference.* Virtual August 2021
- O'Connell, C. L.**, Baruzzi, C., Mason, D., Jones, G., Cove, M., Barton, B., Lashley, M. A. Horizontal and Vertical Camera Trapping Designs Produce Different Species Richness in Carrion Food Webs. Poster presentation. *The Wildlife Society Conference.* Cleveland, OH. October 2018

## **PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP / LEADERSHIP**

### Graduate Students

Biological Science Student Association Social Chair – University of Cincinnati *Fall 2022*  
 Biological Science Student Association Secretary – University of Cincinnati *Fall 2023*

### Postbaccalaureate Students

Darby Moore – Summer field technician conducting an independent research project *Spring 2022*  
 Cesar Estien – Summer field technician conducting an independent research project *Spring 2023*

### Undergraduate Students

Kelsie Huss – NSF REU Sensory Ecology program at University of Cincinnati *Summer 2022*  
 Zaria Griffith – NSF REU Sensory Ecology program at University of Cincinnati *Summer 2022*  
 Penguin Data Club Mentor – University of Cincinnati; *Coding in RStudio, data analysis, data visualization* *2020 - Present*

### High school Students

Frances Canant – Student conducting an independent research project *Spring 2022*

## TEACHING

### Teaching Assistant

**BIOL 1082L** – Biology II lab, University of Cincinnati *Spring 2023*  
*Undergraduate Course. Taught experimental design and applied technical skills to procedures. Introduced scientific writing for proposals, grants, and presentations. Taught coding skills in R,*

**BIOL 3017C** – Analytical Tools for Behavior, University of Cincinnati *Fall 2021*  
*Undergraduate Course. Taught data visualization in RStudio, fundamentals of data collection, cleaning, and reproducibility best practices. Applied skills with data collected in collaboration with the Cincinnati Zoo. <http://hobsonresearch.com/index.php/biol2099-analytical-tools-for-behavior-information/>*

**BIOL 1081** – Biology I lab, University of Cincinnati *Fall 2020*  
*Undergraduate Course. Introduced common biology tools and techniques including microscopes, spectrophotometers, electrophoresis. Taught scientific method, interpretation of results, statistical analyses in Excel, and scientific writing.*

### Guest Lecture

Analytical Tools for Behavior with Dr. Elizabeth Hobson, University of Cincinnati *Fall 2021*  
 Title: Networks, sociality, & cognition  
*Undergraduate Course. Discussed graduate school and research opportunities. Discussed how sociality and social information can inform our understanding of animal cognition and population management practices. Demonstrated real-world applications of data analysis skills learned throughout the semester.*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Monk Parakeet Research Technician.**

*March 2020 – January 2023*

USDA National Wildlife Research Center. Gainesville, FL.

- Re-sighted and collected behavioral data on a captive population of monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*)
- Mist-netted and weighed monk parakeets

**Acorn Woodpecker Research Technician.**

*August 2019– April 2020*

Hastings Natural History Reserve. Carmel Valley, CA.

- Re-sighted and monitored color-banded individual woodpeckers within 42 distinct breeding groups and maintained 45 stationary telemetry base stations used to locate woodpeckers
- Collected and organized data in the field and lab and gained experience troubleshooting raspberry pi computers and solar panels
- Helped set up ambushes in the roosting cavity of acorn woodpeckers to band and to collect biological samples
- Contributed to granary manipulation experiment, vegetation surveys, tick collection, and public outreach

**Breeding Bird and Woodpecker Field Technician.**

*May – July 2019*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.

- Conducted point count surveys based on sight and sound to determine the breeding bird richness and abundance throughout managed and unmanaged forests in southern Illinois
- Identified vegetation and collected surveys throughout southern Illinois
- Assisted in mist netting and banding native woodpeckers
- Assist in nest monitoring, mist netting, and banding prothonotary warblers; also assisted in collecting blood samples for genetic relatedness among nestlings and parents

**Undergraduate Research Scholar.**

*Feb. – Oct. 2018*

Mississippi State University, Starkville MS.

- Investigated camera trap detection rates at a vertical and horizontal orientations and concluded horizontal camera traps have higher species richness detection rates while vertical camera trap offered a detailed picture of focal object.
- Collected data on and analyzed +30,000 camera trap pictures focused on feral pig carcasses and the species interacting with them

**Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Intern**

*May – August 2018*

Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, Sarasota, FL.

- Collected data on all sea turtle crawls, nests, and egg chambers and staked off incubating nests
- Responsible for releasing hatchings on appropriate beach
- Responsible for all activity and daily tasks on Siesta Key which required independently managing over 35 miles of beaches
- Input data into database and assisted with daily office tasks

- Assisted with tagging and tracking adult female sea turtles

### **Herbivory Field Technician.**

*Spring 2018*

John Star Wildlife Refuge, Starkville, MS.

- Study the relationship between mass mortality events and herbivory
- Collected soil samples, measured sapling and tree growth and DBH
- Analyzed camera trap pictures; recorded and cataloged data input on Excel spreadsheets

### **Mississippi Paddlefish Field Technician.**

*Spring 2018*

Research Assistant. Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, Starkville, MS.

- Assisted with setting gillnets and capturing paddlefish
- Measured height and weight and assessed other physiological conditions on live paddlefish
- Assisted with tagging and minor surgeries in the field

### **Large Carnivore Intern.**

*May – August 2017*

Wild Animal Sanctuary, Boyd, TX

- Prepared diets by weighing and dividing portions and distributed medications
- Constructed and restored habitats for bears, tigers, wolves, lions, and white-nose coatis
- Participated in emotional enrichment program by spending extra time with high anxiety tigers and lions and recording ethograms
- Responsible for daily maintenance of equipment including utility vehicles

## **TRAINING / SKILLS**

---

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Computer Software</i>         | Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, Netlogo, RStudio, Github  |
| <i>Field work</i>                | Eastern US plant identification and surveying (DBH), Avian point counts, Use of scopes, Trapping and tagging birds, fish, and small mammals (PIT tags, mist-netting and extraction, banding), Collecting biological and morphological data (blood samples, hair and feather samples, and weights and other measurements), Behavioral observations, Resighting avian color bands, Working alone in and navigating remote locations with GPS/compass, Hiking 10 – 15 km a day in harsh climates, ATV use, Camera trap setup and data collection; <u>Some experience</u> : Avian nest searching |
| <i>Animal Care and Husbandry</i> | Care for large carnivore, ungulate, and invasive (monk parakeet) and endangered species (loggerhead and green sea turtles, and bobwhite quail); Identification of stress behaviors; Releasing sea turtles to natural habitat, The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Certification, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Wildlife Research Certification  |

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Workshops**

American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Virtual Advocacy Event

*Spring 2021*

AIBS Communications Boot Camp

*Spring 2021*

University of Cincinnati Grad-Undergrad Research Connections Program

*Fall 2021*

### **Certifications**

Project Learning Tree Certification.

*Spring 2018*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Animal Behavior Society                          | 2022        |
| American Institute of Biological Sciences        | 2021        |
| The Association for the Study of Animal Behavior | 2021        |
| American Ornithological Society                  | 2020        |
| Mississippi Chapter of the Wildlife Society      | 2017 – 2019 |