

Hannah Weller

Research interests: the role of biomechanical constraints in life history evolution; paths of least resistance in the evolution of new traits; methods development for analyzing organism color and pattern.

Education

- 2019 – Present** **PhD candidate, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**
Brown University (Providence, RI)
Thesis: How much does functional morphology matter to the evolution of mouthbrooding?
- 2017 – 2019** **Transitional M.Sc., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**
Brown University (Providence, RI)
Thesis: How do feeding adaptations influence the convergent evolution of mouthbrooding?
- 2012 – 2016** **Honors B.Sc., Biology**
University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Thesis: Winnowing in the eartheater cichlids

Peer-reviewed publications

- Weller, H.I.**, Olsen, A., Camp, A.L., Hernandez, L.P., Manafzadeh, A.R., and Brainerd, E.L. (2020). An XROMM study of intra-oral transport and swallowing in catfish. *Integrative Organismal Biology*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/iob/obaa018>.
- Cohen, K.E., **Weller, H.I.**, Westneat, M.W., and Summers, A.P. (2020). The Evolutionary Continuum of Functional Homodonty to Heterodonty in the Dentition of *Halichoeres* Wrasses. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icaa137>.
- Weller, H.I.***, Hooper, S.E.*, and Amelon, S.K* (2020). Countcolors, an R package for quantification of the fluorescence emitted by *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* lesions on the wing membranes of hibernating bats. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. <https://doi.org/10.7589/2019-09-231>
- *These authors contributed equally to this work.
- Cohen, K.E., **Weller, H.I.**, and Summers, A.P. (2020). Not your father's homodonty—stress, tooth shape, and the functional homodont. *Journal of Anatomy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/joa.13248>
- van Meer, N.M., **Weller, H.I.**, Manafzadeh, A.R., Kaczmarek, E.B., Scott, B., Gussekloo, S.W.S., Wilga, C.D., Brainerd, E.B., and Camp, A.L. (2019). Intra-oropharyngeal food transport and swallowing in white-spotted bamboo sharks. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. DOI: [10.1242/jeb.201426](https://doi.org/10.1242/jeb.201426)
- Weller, H.I.**, and Westneat, M.W. (2019). Quantitative color profiling of digital images with earth mover's distance using the R package colordistance. *PeerJ*. DOI: [10.7717/peerj.6398](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.6398)
- Weller, H.I.**, McMahan, C.D., and Westneat, M.W. (2016). Dirt-sifting Devilfish: Winnowing in the geophagine cichlid *Satanoperca daemon* and evolutionary implications. *Zoomorphology*. DOI: [10.1007/s00435-016-0335-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00435-016-0335-6)

Software

- Weller, H.I.** (2020). recolorize: Simplify and Remap Image Colors for Biological Analysis (ver. 0.9.000). Compiled and installable; CRAN release planned. <https://github.com/hiweller/recolorize>
- O'Sullivan, D., **Weller, H.I.**, and Lord, N.P. Insect Color Database (ICDB). In development. <https://insectcolor.com/>
- Weller, H.I.** (2019). colordistance: Distance Metrics for Image Color Similarity (ver. 1.1.0). CRAN repository. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=colordistance>
- Weller, H.I.** (2018). countcolors: Locates and Counts Pixels Within Color Range(s) in Images (ver. 0.9.1). CRAN Repository. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=countcolors>

Presentations

- Weller, H.I.**, López-Fernández, H., McMahan, C.D., and Brainerd, E.L. (Jan. 2020). Talk: The spandrels of Satan's perches: evidence for the co-optation of feeding traits in the convergent evolution of mouthbrooding in Neotropical cichlids. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Austin, TX*.
- Weller, H.I.**, López-Fernández, H., McMahan, C.D., and Brainerd, E.L. (Oct. 2019). Talk: Does mouthbrooding constrain or complement feeding morphology? *Regional Division of Vertebrate Morphology (Northeast), Newton, MA*.
- Weller, H.I.**, Olsen, A., Camp, A.L., Hernandez, L.P., Manafzadeh, A.R., and Brainerd, E.L. (Jan. 2019). Talk: 3D-Intra-oral Prey Trajectories Indicate Distinct Phases in how Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*, Siluriformes: Ictaluridae) Swallow Food. *International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, Prague, CZ*.
- Weller, H.I.**, Cohen, K.E., Gibb, A., and Brainerd, E.L. (Jan. 2019). Poster: Using tethers to measure food transport in a flatfish. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Tampa, FL*.

Weller, H.I., Olsen, A., Camp, A.L., Hernandez, L.P., Manafzadeh, A.R., and Brainerd, E.L. (Jan. 2019). Talk: An XROMM study of intra-oral transport and swallowing in catfish. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Tampa, FL*.

Weller, H.I. and Brainerd, E.L. (Oct. 2017). Talk: How do fish swallow food? *Regional Division of Vertebrate Morphology (Northeast), Lowell, MA*.

Weller, H.I., McMahan, C.D., and Westneat, M.W. (July 2016). Poster: Dirt-sifting devilfish: winnowing in eartheater cichlids. *American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, New Orleans, LA*.

Awards and Fellowships

April 2019	Graduate Research Fellowship \$138,000, National Science Foundation
December 2018	Field Museum Visiting Scientist Scholarship \$1,500, Field Museum of Natural History
May 2017	Presidential Fellowship \$108,000, Brown University
June 2015	Jeff Metcalf Undergraduate Research Fellowship \$5,000, Marine Biological Laboratory
March 2015	Elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society
September 2014	Best Presentation, Undergraduate Research Symposium \$150, University of Chicago
June 2014	Elliott and Eileen Hinkes Research Fellowship \$4,000, University of Chicago

Invited talks, lectures, & workshops

July 2020	Workshop: Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in R <i>University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratories</i> (Friday Harbor, WA) R workshop focusing on phylogenetic and comparative methods. Instructors: Matthew Kolmann and Cassandra Donatelli.
July 2020	A field guide to statistics in organismal biology <i>University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratories</i> (Friday Harbor, WA) Guest lecture. Instructors: Matthew Kolmann and Cassandra Donatelli.
July 2020	Mouthbrooding morphologies in Neotropical cichlids <i>University of California Davis, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology</i> (Davis, CA) Virtual seminar. Host: Peter Wainwright.
April 2020	Special Topics: Light, Color, and Vision in Biology (BIOL 7901/ENTM 7008) <i>Louisiana State University, Dept. of Entomology and Dept. of Biology</i> (Baton Rouge, LA) Guest lecturer (3 classes). Instructors: Nathan Lord (ENTM) & Brant Faircloth (BIOL).
December 2019	Workshop: R for Biologists <i>Louisiana State University, Dept. of Entomology</i> (Baton Rouge, LA) Organizer. Day-long workshop on data analysis and visualization in R.

Research experience

2017 – Present	Graduate student, Brainerd Lab ; advisor: Elizabeth Brainerd <i>Brown University, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology</i> Comparative morphology, kinematics, and biomechanics of mouthbrooding fishes; XROMM fish feeding and transport.
September 2013 – July 2017	Research assistant ; advisor: Mark Westneat <i>University of Chicago, Dept. of Organismal Biology & Anatomy</i> Quantitative color analysis; geometric morphometrics; high-speed video kinematics.
June 2015 – September 2015	Jeff Metcalf Summer Research Fellow ; advisor: Roger Hanlon <i>Brown University, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology</i> Hyperspectral imaging; image analysis pipelines; camouflage analyses.

June 2014 – September 2014

Summer Research Fellow, Westneat Lab; advisor: Mark Westneat
University of Chicago, Dept. of Organismal Biology & Anatomy
Ontogenetic scaling; biomechanical modeling; geometric morphometrics.

Teaching and outreach

August 2020 – Present

Teaching assistant, *Brown University, Alpert Medical School* (Providence, RI)
COVID-modified Human Anatomy (lecture and lab)
Restructuring the traditional gross anatomy curriculum, including remote/small group work and prosection-based staggered labs.

September 2019 – Present

R User Group, *Brown University, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology* (Providence, RI)
Organizing and running monthly R workshops for graduate and undergraduate students, focusing on techniques for biological analysis (e.g., data organization, statistics, and visualization).

August 2019 – April 2020

Teaching assistant, *Brown University, Alpert Medical School* (Providence, RI)
Human Anatomy (lecture and lab)
Guiding medical students through cadaver-based human anatomy labs.

September 2018 – Present

Marine Science Club, *Paul Cuffee High School* (Providence, RI)
Collaborating with high school teachers for weekly science activities with high school students.

September 2017 – Dec. 2017

Teaching assistant, *Brown University, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology* (Providence, RI)
Diversity of Life (lecture)

January 2015 – April 2017

Teaching assistant, *University of Chicago, Dept. of Biological Sciences* (Chicago, IL)
Presenting and supervising lab experiments; writing and grading assignments; lecturing; leading paper discussions and review sessions; guiding dissection-based anatomy labs.
Genetic and Developmental Biology (lab & lecture)
Multiscale Modeling of Biological Systems (lecture)
Molecular Biology of the Cell (lab)
Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy (lab & lecture)

June 2013 – September 2013

Animal care intern, *New England Aquarium* (Boston, MA)
Daily animal care and maintenance; visitor outreach; collection trips.

Skills

Coding

R, Python (OpenCV, Scrapy, & BioPython libraries), MATLAB, UNIX, MEL

Software

Latex, Maya, FIJI/ImageJ, Horos, 3DSlicer, XMALab, Mesquite, Pandoc, Microsoft Office

Languages

English (native), French (intermediate)

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