

# Ketki Samel

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, University of Connecticut, Storrs (2021–present)

*Advisor:* Prof. Chris S. Elphick

*Courses:* Ecological risk assessment; Science communication; Ecological modeling; Urban conservation

**B.A., Integrative Biology**, University of California, Berkeley (2016–20)

Emphasis in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology — 3.67 GPA

*Advisor:* Prof. Eileen A. Lacey

*Courses:* Wildlife ecology; Evolution; Ornithology; Animal behavior; Biodiversity; Data science

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Community ecology • Ornithology • Species interactions • Anthropogenic change • Behavioral ecology • Natural history • Community science • Evidence-based conservation • Biodiversity collections • Science communication

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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**Harriott Fellowship** (\$100,000), University of Connecticut (2021-26)

**Team-TERRA Research Traineeship** (\$34,000), National Science Foundation (2021-23)

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program — Honorable Mention**, National Science Foundation (2021)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Mouse Husbandry Technician**, Nachman Lab, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley (2020–21)

- Maintain long-term colonies of wild-caught *Mus musculus* for the lab's evolutionary genetics research

*Supervisor:* Prof. Michael Nachman

**Undergraduate Researcher**, UC Berkeley (2020)

- Evaluate the impact of COVID-19-related changes in human presence upon wild birds

*Advisor:* Prof. Rauri Bowie

**Research Assistant**, Lacey Lab, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley (2019–20)

- Compare behavioral responses to environmental change in chipmunks (*Tamias alpinus*, *T. speciosus*)

*Advisors:* Kwasi Wrensford; Prof. Eileen Lacey

**Specimen Preparation Assistant**, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley (2019)

- Dissect and skeletonize salvaged vertebrate specimens for the museum collections

**Curatorial Photographer**, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC Berkeley (2019)

- Photograph and digitize bird nest specimens for remote access through the museum's Arctos database

*Supervisor:* Dr. Carla Cicero

## FIELDWORK

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**Bird point count surveys:** 14 days — UC Berkeley, Alameda County, CA (2020)

**Chipmunk trapping & behavioral assays:** 59 days — Sierra Nevada, Mono County, CA (2019-20)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Verharen JPH, **Samel K**, de Jong JW, Tose AJ, Tan E, Nachman MW, and Lammel S. 2022. *Mesolimbic dopamine mediates adaptive exploration behavior in adverse environments*. [submitted].

## TEACHING

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TA, **EEB 2244 (General Ecology)**: University of Connecticut, with Prof. Miranda Davis (2022)

TA, **EEB 3201 (Animal Behavior)**: University of Connecticut, with Prof. Sarah Knutie (2021)

Undergraduate Student Instructor, **IB 104LF (Natural History of the Vertebrates)**: UC Berkeley, with Profs. Rauri Bowie, Jim McGuire, and Alan Shabel (2021)

Content Collaborator, **IB 11 (California Natural History)**: UC Berkeley, with Prof. Alan Shabel (2020)

## POSTERS

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- Samel, K**, and Elphick C. 2022. Tolerance for urban development varies seasonally among Connecticut Birds. AFO 100 (Plymouth, MA)
- Wrensford K, **Samel, K**, and Lacey E. 2022. Behavioral responses to climate change in chipmunks of the Sierra Nevada. 2022. ESACSEE (Montreal)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- Volunteer Scientist**, Connecticut State BioBlitz (2022)
- Graduate Representative**, Ecological Society of America SEEDS, University of Connecticut (2021-22)
- Editor**, At the Roots blog (2020-21)
- Multimedia Content Producer**, The Lawrence At Home, UC Berkeley (2020)
- Education Facilitator**, The Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley (2017–20)
- Managing Editor**, The Daily Californian (2018)
- Night Editor**, The Daily Californian (2017–18)

## SKILLS

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- Fieldwork:** Wildlife surveys (point counts); Live animal trapping (Sherman traps); Vertebrate dissections and tissue sampling; Animal handling (rodents, passerines, and reptiles); Field notes (Grinnell method)
- Analysis:** R; Python; Behavioral Observation Research Interactive Software (BORIS)
- Other:** DSLR photography; Editing and proofreading; Small mammal husbandry
- Languages:** English (fluent); Spanish (proficient); Marathi (conversational)