

Leah Crenshaw

Ithaca, New York | 903.556.8003 | lcc94@cornell.edu

EDUCATION

Doctoral Student in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York | Expected graduation May 2027

Master of Science in Biology, diploma-conferral May 5th, 2023

University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado | May 2023

Thesis: Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*)

Bachelor of Arts in Biology and English: Creative Writing

Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas | August 2016 – May 2020

Summa Cum Laude with distinction in both majors, GPA: 4.0

Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez | January 2019 – May 2019

Semester abroad as full-time student

Universidad Complutense de Madrid | June 2018 – July 2018

6-week intensive study of eight topics of Madrid's literature, culture, and history

GRE Test Date: August 5th, 2019

Verbal: 168/170 | Quantitative: 168/170 | Writing: 5.0/6.0

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Young, M.A., Patel, K., **Crenshaw, L.C.**, Moran, M.D., McClung, M.R., and Haden Chomposy, W. 2022. Ecosystem Services of the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. *Natural Areas Journal* 42(4): 293-300.

Shepard, C.A., McClung, M.R., Baldwin, E.M., **Crenshaw, L.C.**, Gazaway, D., Holman, K., Sammon, K., Moran, M.D. 2021. Range, distribution, and habitat utilization of rare prairie butterfly, the Texas frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus badros*) in Arkansas. *Journal of the Lepidopterist Society* 75(2): 104-112.

Crenshaw, L.C., Shepard, C.A., Phelan, N.E., McClung, M.R., and Moran, M.D. 2020. New county records of three *Baptisia* species in Arkansas, with an updated distribution map. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 74(1): 72-74.

Crossley, M.S., Meier, A.R., Baldwin, E.M., Berry, L.L., **Crenshaw, L.C.**, Hartman, G.L., Lagos-Kutz, D., Nichols, D.H., Patel, K., Varriano, S., Snyder, W.E., and Moran, M.D. 2020. No Evidence of an "Insect Apocalypse" Across U.S. Long-Term, Ecological Research Sites. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 4: 1368-1376.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Crenshaw, L.C., Garlinger, R.D., Parrott, R.E., Schumann, A.G. 2021. Comparison of plumage intensity in Florida Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) when given Nekton-S or Nekton-GELB dietary supplement at White Oak Conservation, with evidence of sexual plumage variation. In Brooks, M., Koutsos, E., Henry, B. Eds. *Proceedings of the Fourteenth Conference on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition*.

PRESENTATIONS

Crenshaw, L.C., Bennett, R.E., Rodewald, A.D. October 2024. "Landscape composition influences the conservation value of shade coffee." Poster presentation given at the American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting in Estes Park, CO.

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- Crenshaw, L.C., Shepard, C.A., McClung, M.R. June-July, 2022. “Behavioral response of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) to songs altered to escape masking effects of anthropogenic noise.” Oral Presentation given at the Joint American Ornithological Society—Birds Caribbean Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. **Invited to compete in Student Presentation Awards.**
- Crenshaw, L.C., Salo, J.A., Benedict, L. April, 2022. “Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*).” Oral presentation at the University of Northern Colorado’s Academic Excellence Week Research Day, Greeley, CO. **Research Excellence Award Finalist in Natural and Health Sciences.**
- Crenshaw, L.C., Shepard, C.A., McClung, M.R. February, 2022. “Behavioral response of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) to songs altered to escape masking effects of anthropogenic noise.” Oral presentation at the Front Range Student Ecology Symposium at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- Crenshaw, L.C., Garlinger, R.D., Parrott, R.E., Schumann, A.G. October, 2021. “The impact of Nekton-GelB and Nekton-S dietary supplement on Florida Grasshopper Sparrow plumage intensity.” Paper presented at the AZA Nutrition Working Group Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition Conference, Online. **Recipient of the Long Oral Presentation Roy McClements Student/Keeper Competition.**
- Crenshaw, L.C., Shepard, C.A., McClung, M.R. August, 2020. “Behavioral response of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) to songs altered to escape masking effects of anthropogenic noise.” Poster presented at the North American Ornithological Conference, Online.
- Crenshaw, L.C., Moran, M.D., McClung, M.R., Baldwin, E.M., Gazaway, D., Holman, K., Sammon, K., Shepard, C.A. March, 2020. “Range, distribution, and habitat utilization of rare prairie butterfly, the Texas frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus badros*) in Arkansas.” Paper presented at the Arkansas Wildlife Society Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas.

FUNDING, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Academic Fellowships

National Science Foundation | Graduate Research Fellowship, 2023-2027

Dr. Albert M. Winchester Graduate Fellowship in Biology, U. of Northern Colorado, 2022-2023

Awards and Honors

Academic Scholar Award, College of Natural and Health Sciences, U. of Northern Colorado, 2023

Excellence in Mentorship Award, Dept. Biological Sciences, U. of Northern Colorado, 2022

School of Biological Sciences Graduate Assistantship, U. of Northern Colorado, 2021-2023

Earle A. Spessard Biology Award, Hendrix College, 2020

I.A. Campbell Memorial Prize for Creative Writing Thesis, Hendrix College, 2020

Hendrix College Dean’s List, 2016-2020

Hendrix Murphy Scholar in Literature and Language, 2017

United States Presidential Scholar for Arkansas, U.S. Department of Education, 2016

Research Support

\$3,318 Summer Funding Award | University of Northern Colorado | **Awarded** in support of Western Meadowlark research | Summer 2022

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- \$750 Stem Inclusive Excellence Mentor Award | Colorado-Wyoming Alliance for Minority Participation/U. of Northern Colorado LEAP Program | **Awarded** in support of research in the STEM-Inclusive Excellence Collective Summer Research Program | Summer 2022
- \$2,000 Animal Behavior Society Conservation Award | Animal Behavior Society | **Awarded** in support of Western Meadowlark research | Spring 2022
- \$1,500 Research Grant | Colorado Field Ornithologists | **Awarded** in support of Western Meadowlark research | Spring 2022
- \$1,500 Research Grant | Denver Field Ornithologists | **Awarded** in support of Western Meadowlark research | Spring 2022
- \$744.12 Research Funding | University of Northern Colorado, Graduate Student Association | **Awarded** in support of Western Meadowlark research | Spring 2022

Additional research grants submitted to the Wilson Ornithological Society, American Ornithological Society, and Garden Club of America submitted Spring 2022 for amounts ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000 in support of Western Meadowlark research, not selected for funding.

Travel Support

- \$925 Travel Award in Support of Diversity and Inclusion | American Ornithological Society | **Awarded** in support of travel to the 2022 Joint American Ornithological Society-Birds Caribbean Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico | Summer 2022

SELECTED RESEARCH AND FIELD EXPERIENCE

- August 2021 – Present | **Thesis** | Benedict Lab | University of Northern Colorado
Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*).
- August 2021 – Present | **Graduate Teaching Assistantship** | University of Northern Colorado
Taught labs as sole instructor for Introductory Biology Lab and Ecology Lab. Worked two semesters in the U. of Northern Colorado Herbarium for 6 hrs/wk—primary responsibility georeferencing historic specimens. Worked one semester in the U. of Northern Colorado Natural History Museum, sole caretaker for 2100 specimen avian specimens, preparing specimens and teaching specimen preparation to undergraduate museum assistants.
- October 2020 – April 2021 | **Internship** | White Oak Conservation Center | Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Intern, assisting the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) captive breeding program for release into the wild; daily responsibilities include sparrow husbandry, handling birds in veterinary exams, conducting offspring survivorship analysis, hand or mistnetting sparrows as needed, and working with cranes, cassowary, and currawong on property as needed
- May 2020 – August 2022 | **Volunteering** | Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Station
Assisted mist net set up, extraction, aging, sexing, and banding of passerines and near-passerines | May 2021 – present, assisting in undergraduate training | Stone Prairie MAPS Station, Faulkner County, Arkansas | Operator/Master Bander Dr. Maureen McClung
- January 2020 – May 2020 | **Internship** | Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Assisting aquatic ecologist Dr. Dustin Lynch in biodiversity sampling and non-game conservation in Arkansas, editing crayfish portion of the 2020 Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan

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October 2019 – August 2020 | **Research** | Moran Research Lab | Hendrix College

“No Evidence of an “Insect Apocalypse” Across U.S. Long-Term, Ecological Research Sites”
assisted in analysis of insectivorous bird population trends at LTERs, manuscript proofreading
and stylistic edits

June 2019 – May 2021 | **Research** | McClung Moran Research Lab | Hendrix College

“A comprehensive valuation of the ecosystem services of the Buffalo National
River”—identified and valued ecosystem services provided per hectare by the National River
Park

May 2019 – present | **Research** | McClung Research Lab | Hendrix College

“Behavioral response of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) to songs altered to escape the
masking effects of anthropogenic noise”—assembled mist nets, collected behavioral data on
color-banded wrens, performed audio analysis

January 2019 – May 2019 | **Internship** | INVCOL | Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (R.U.M),
Puerto Rico Assisting in the field collection, care, and curation of INVCOL, the invertebrate
collection at R.U.M.; assisted with arthropod genomics research ongoing in the lab of INVCOL
director Dr. Alex Van Dam

November 2018 – May 2020 | **Research** | McClung Research Lab | Hendrix College

“Winter roosting and pair-bonding behavior of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus
ludovicianus*)”—banded wrens, collected and analyzed behavioral movement and vocalization
data, built, set, and maintained RFID roosting houses

January 2018 – May 2020 | **Research** | McClung Moran Research Lab | Hendrix College

“Range, habitat requirements and distribution of the Texas frosted elfin butterfly”—surveyed
public and private lands throughout state for elfins and host plant, collected new records of
plants and butterflies, identified habitat characteristics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Northern Colorado | Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

BIO 360, Ecology and Evolution In-Lecture, Graduate Teaching Assistant | 1 semester

BIO 360, Ecology and Evolution Laboratory, Graduate Teaching Assistant | 4 semesters

BIO 110, Principles of Biology Laboratory, Graduate Teaching Assistant | 1 semester

BIO 110, Principles of Biology Laboratory, online, Graduate Teaching Assistant | 1 semester

Hendrix College | 2016 – 2020

BIO 365, Ecology and Evolution Laboratory, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant | 2 semesters

BIO 220, Zoology Laboratory, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Tutor | 4 semesters

BIO 250, Genetics Laboratory, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Tutor | 1 semester

Biology Writing Center, Writing Center Associate | 5 semesters

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Scientific Training

Beginning Bird Banding | Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland, MN | Instructor Dani
Kaschube | Week-long class on bird banding covering equipment use, extraction and data
collection techniques, techniques in aging and sexing songbirds, ethics in bird banding, and
permit applications | 20-27 June 2021

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Citation Management with Zotero | part of the Career ToolKit for Graduate Students series | Instructor Seth Vuletich, Colorado School of Mines | Online training in using Zotero as a citation management tool hosted through the Colorado School of Mines | 31 August 2022

A focused workshop on non-academic research and conservation positions | part of the Joint American Ornithological Society—Birds Caribbean 2022 Conference | Instructors Colleen Miller, Jennifer Houtz, and Evan Adams | Workshop on non-academic research and conservation job opportunities for ornithologists, followed by a panel discussion with career professionals and networking hour | 27 June 2022

eBird Status: Introduction to eBird Status data products | part of the Joint American Ornithological Society—Birds Caribbean 2022 Conference | Instructors Matt Strimas-Mackey and Tom Auer | Workshop on the currently available eBird data products, their use, their limitations, and future products under production by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology | 27 June 2022

Pedagogical Training

“Round Table Discussion: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Research” | Led by Dr. Natalie Pool and Dr. Aryn Taylor | Part of the U. of Northern Colorado College of Natural and Health Sciences’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Conference | 6 March 2023

“Creating a Culturally Inclusive Environment Through Classroom Interactions” | Instructor Dr. Jodie Novak | Part of the U. of Northern Colorado College of Natural and Health Sciences’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Conference | 6 March 2023

“What First Generation Students Don’t Say” | Instructors Shawanna Kimbrough-Hayward, Flora Powells, and Gizeh Martinez | Part of the U. of Northern Colorado College of Natural and Health Sciences’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Conference | 6 March 2023

“Open Forum: Becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution – What Does this Mean for NHS?” | Presenters Dr. Tobias Guzmán, Dr./ Jonathan Alcantar, Chris Garcia | Part of the U. of Northern Colorado College of Natural and Health Sciences’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Conference | 6 March 2023

“A Case Against 0: Rethinking Grades and Grading Scales” | presented by the U. of Northern Colorado Center for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning | Instructors Dr. Bailie Peterson, Dr. Julie Hanks, and Dr. Tina Stooddy | 28 September 2022

“Advanced Skills—Incorporating Equity and Inclusion in Your Assessment Practices” | part of the Graduate School Teaching and Graduate Assistants’ Training Conference | Instructor Dr. Molly Jameson | Online workshop in utilizing equitable assessment classes in undergraduate teaching | 17 August 2022

STEM Inclusive Excellence Collective Mentor Training | Instructor Dr. Andrea James with the Colorado-Wyoming Minority Participation Alliance and the U. of Northern Colorado LEAP program | 4 May 2022

SERVICE:

Student Mentorship

2022 Kyra Johnson, Colorado-Wyoming Alliance for Minority Participation/STEM Inclusive Excellence Program Mentee. Research: the impact of road density on Western Meadowlark morphology in the Pawnee National Grassland.

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- 2022 Holly Vigil, Research: Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks. Career discernment and reference writer for successful admission to the Hamline University Natural Science and Environmental Education program.
- 2022-present Alyssa Brock-Moore, Research: Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks.
- 2022-present Alex Hallam, academic mentorship, monthly meetings to discuss career planning, curriculum, and stress-management; mentorship on U. of Northern Colorado Museum of Natural History project
- 2022-present Adam Lang, Research: Analyzing grassland bird song and success at the landscape-level: the impact of landscape characteristics on Western Meadowlarks.
- 2022-present Chris Whitefield, Research: the impact of landscape on Western Meadowlark plumage intensity.

Community Service

- Cornell Bird Friendly Campus Initiative | Monitoring Coordinator | Fall 2024-current | Cornell University | Wrote a protocol, recruited a team of 16 community volunteers, and organized monitoring efforts to quantify fatal bird-window collisions on Cornell University campus in support of ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable building design at Cornell
- Food Insecurity Support Team, Founder | Fall 2022-Spring 2023 | Founder | U. of Northern Colorado School of Biological Sciences | Team of 4 graduate students working to assess and address food insecurity among graduate students in the department by surveying need, coordinating student access to resources and transportation, and working with administration to create a mobile food pantry location on the U. of Northern Colorado campus for the community
- Graduate Student Representative | 2022-2023 Academic Year | U. of Northern Colorado, School of Biological Sciences | Elected as representative by the SBS graduate students, attends all faculty meetings, advocates for and implements resolutions to student concerns
- Student Affairs Committee | Fall 2021-current | American Ornithological Society | Participating in student run committee that represents student affairs to the AOS, design and run conference events (ex. 2022 AOS-BC Quiz Bowl), coordinating student events throughout the year
- Raptor Rehabilitator and Educator | Summer 2019-Summer 2020 | Raptor Rehab of Central Arkansas, El Paso, AR | Biweekly care responsible for sanitation, feeding, environmental enrichment of rehabilitation and unreleasable raptors; socialization and training of unreleasable raptors | Public outreach educator and handler for local state parks, schools, and community groups with unreleasable, socialized raptors

SELECTED ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Experience catching, handling, and banding passerines and raptors
Handling record and banding references available upon request
- Experience using ArcGIS Pro, R, JMP Statistical Software, RavenPro Sound Software, Adobe InDesign
- Languages: English (Level 5 ILR), Spanish (Level 3+ ILR)
- Certified by the National Institute of Health in Animal Users Training

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REFERENCES

Dr. Amanda Rodewald

Garvin Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

Senior Director of the Center for Avian Population Studies, Laboratory of Ornithology

Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

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Dr. Lauryn Benedict

Professor of Biological Sciences

University of Northern Colorado

Greeley, Colorado

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Dr. Maureen McClung

Associate Professor of Biology

Hendrix College

Conway, Arkansas

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