

Dear Professor [REDACTED],

My name is [REDACTED] and I hold a BS in Zoology (3.3/5.00) and MS in Zoology ([REDACTED]) from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. I am very delighted to write you concerning a Fall 2020 prospective PhD study in Biology at Kentucky University under your supervision. - **INTRODUCTION**

I took an interest in your area of research after reading your review article entitled; "Does habitat structural complexity influence the frequency of extra-pair paternity in bird" because of its intersection with my research plan. I have worked on the conservation of birds in Nigeria in both academic and volunteering contexts. During my MS program, I researched on the diversity and abundance of avifauna with respect to habitat types in Omo Forest Reserve, Nigeria which exposed me to how birds and other animals move through and select habitats in landscape that have been altered by humans. In volunteering efforts, I worked with the Omo Forest Research and the Nigeria Bird Atlas teams on how to understand and mitigate the sources of human-wildlife conflict. We also got involved in conducting studies on the behavioral responses of other mammals such as Elephant to habitat degradation. –

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

This experience helped me explore new parts of Nigeria where we mapped Nigeria's bird species and their status; and also allowed my contribution to science as I was able to discover new habitats for these birds. As a result, for my graduate studies, I will be interested on the relative roles of habitat degradation and other anthropogenic activities on the social and reproductive behavior in birds. I believe my prior background in research will be a valuable experience for my intended PhD studies. My long term goal is to become a faculty working on the interface between Behavior Ecology and Conservation Biology in birds; I want to be involved in studies that evaluate the effect of habitat restoration on birds and how it helps in their conservation. – **YOUR INTEREST AND GOALS**

I will be available for a skype interview and/or offline interview at the Kentucky University. I will be anticipating your favorable consideration as I believe that my research prowess will be bettered under your tutelage. Please find attached my CV and Transcripts. - **CLOSING**

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]