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University of Connecticut  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department  
Molecular and Cell Biology Department  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2022 **Ph.D.** University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Committee on Evolutionary Biology  
Advisor: Dr. John Novembre  
Thesis: *Geographic variation and temporal dynamics of migratory bird microbial communities*
- 2016 **M.S.** Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Sushma Reddy  
Thesis: *Prevalence and diversity of the haemosporidian blood parasite Leucocytozoon in sub-Saharan African birds*
- 2008 **B.S.** Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO  
Zoology, Biological Sciences

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2022-2024 **Research and Teaching Scholar**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Connecticut
- 2022-2024 **Assistant Research Professor**, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Molecular and Cell Biology Departments, University of Connecticut
- 2022-pres. **Research Associate**, Integrative Research Center, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2020-2021 **Chicago Center for Teaching Fellow**, University of Chicago
- 2018-2019 **Women in Science Graduate Fellow**, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2015-2022 **Scientific Affiliate**, Integrative Research Center, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2011-2015 **Staff Scientist**, Emerging Pathogen Project, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2009-2011 **Program Facilitator**, Education Department, Field Museum of Natural History

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Published

- (11) **Skeen, H.R.**, D.E. Willard, A.W. Jones, B.M. Winger, E.F. Gyllenhaal, B.R. Tsuru, S.J. Hackett, and J. Novembre. 2023. *Intestinal microbiota of Nearctic Neotropical migratory birds vary more over seasons and years than between host species.* **Molecular Ecology.**

- (10) Herder, E.A., **H.R. Skeen**, H.L. Lutz and S.M. Hird. 2023. [Body size poorly predicts host associated microbial diversity in wild birds.](#) ***Microbiology Spectrum***.
- (9) **Skeen, H.R.**, N.W. Cooper, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and P.P. Marra. 2021. [Repeated sampling of individuals reveals impact of tropical and temperate habitats on microbiota of a migratory bird.](#) ***Molecular Ecology***.
- (8) A. Fecchio, N.J. Clark, J.A. Bell, **H.R. Skeen**, H.L. Lutz, J.A. Vaughan, V.V. Tkach, F. Schunck, F. C. Ferreira, É. M. Braga, C. Lugarini, W. Wamiti, J. H. Dispoto, S. C. Galen, K. Kirchgatter, G. M. De La Torre, M. C. Sagario, V. R. Cueto, D. González-Acuña, G. Voelker, M. D. Collins, O. Hellgren, V. A. Ellis, S. Bensch, R. E. Ricklefs, J. D. Weckstein, K. Wells. 2021. [Global drivers of avian haemosporidian infections vary across zoogeographical regions.](#) ***Global Ecology and Biogeography***.
- (7) McNew, S.M., L.N. Barrow, J.L. Williamson, S.C. Galen, **H.R. Skeen**, S.G. DuBay, A. M. Gaffney, A.B. Johnson, E. Bautista, P. Ordoñez, C. J. Schmitt, A. Smiley, T. Valqui, J.M. Bates, S.J. Hackett, and C.C. Witt. 2021. [Contrasting drivers of diversity in hosts and parasites across the tropical Andes.](#) ***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences***.
- (6) Song, S.J, J. Sanders, F. Delsuc, J. Metcalf, K. Amato, M. Taylor, F. Mazel, H.L. Lutz, K. Winker, G. Graves, G. Humphrey, J. Gilbert, S.J. Hackett, K.P. White, **H.R. Skeen**, S.M. Kurtis, J. Withrow, T. Braile, M. Miller, K. McCracken, J. Maley, V. Ezenwa, A. Williams, J. Blanton, V. 2020. McKenzie, and R. Knight. [Comparative analyses of vertebrate gut microbiomes reveal convergence between birds and bats.](#) ***mBio***.
- (5) Barrow, L.N., S. McNew, N. Mitchell, S.C. Galen, H.L. Lutz, **H.R. Skeen**, T. Valqui, J.D. Weckstein, and C.C. Witt. 2019. [Deeply conserved susceptibility in a multi-host, multi parasite system.](#) ***Ecology Letters***.
- (4) Pulgarin, P.C., C. Gomez, N.J. Bayly, S. Bensch, A. FitzGerald, N. Starkloff, J. Kirchman, A.M. Gonzalez, K.Hobson, J. Ungvari-Martin, **H.R. Skeen**, M.I. Castano, and C.D. Cadena. 2018. [Migratory birds as vehicles for long distance parasite dispersal? Infection by avian haemosporidians over the year and throughout the range of a long-distance migrant.](#) ***Journal of Biogeography***.
- (3) Sweet, A.D., S.E. Bush, D.R. Gustafsson, J.M. Allen, E. DiBlasi, **H.R. Skeen**, J.D. Weckstein, and K.P. Johnson. 2018. [Host and parasite morphology influence congruence between host and parasite phylogenies.](#) ***International Journal for Parasitology***.
- (2) Bush, S.E., J.D. Weckstein, D.R. Gustafsson, J.M. Allen, E. DiBlasi, S.M. Shreve, R. Boldt, **H.R. Skeen**, and K.P. Johnson. 2016. [Unlocking the black box of feather louse diversity: A molecular phylogeny of the hyper diverse genus \*Brueelia\*.](#) ***Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution***.
- (1) Bush, S.E., J.D. Weckstein, D.R. Gustafsson, J.M. Allen, E. DiBlasi, S.M. Shreve, R. Boldt, **H.R. Skeen**, and K.P. Johnson. 2015. [Data supporting a molecular phylogeny of the hyper-diverse genus \*Brueelia\*.](#) ***Data in Brief***.

Forthcoming

- (3) **Skeen, H.R.**, G. Dwyer, D.E. Willard, E.F. Gyllenhaal, S.J. Hackett, and J. Novembre. [The role of vector-borne pathogens in the population dynamics of migratory birds.](#)

- (2) Gil, J.C., **H.R. Skeen**, C. Cuellar, and S.M. Hird. [Canada goose fecal microbiota correlate with geography more than host-associate co-factors.](#)
- (1) Weeks, B.C., Z. Zhou, C. Probst, J. Berv, B. O'Brien, B. Benz, **H.R. Skeen**, M. Ziebell, L. Bodt, and D. F. Fouhey. [Skeletal trait measurements for thousands of bird species.](#)

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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2023	\$31,170	<b>CLAS Summer 2023 Funding Initiative</b> , University of Connecticut
2022	\$700	<b>Travel Award</b> , American Society of Parasitology
	\$900	<b>Travel Award</b> , International Conference on Wildlife Haemosporidians
2020	\$6,000	<b>Microbiome Center Pilot Grant</b> , Argonne National Laboratory
2019	\$7,000	<b>Grainger Bioinformatics Grant</b> , Field Museum of Natural History
	\$6,250	<b>Women's Board Field Dreams Award</b> , Field Museum of Natural History
	\$1,500	<b>Brien O'Brien and Mary Hasten Scholarship</b> , University of Chicago
	\$400	<b>Travel Award</b> , American Ornithological Society
	\$2,500	<b>Museum Collections Spending Fund</b> , Field Museum of Natural History
	\$1,600	<b>Henry Hinds Fund for Graduate Student Research</b> , University of Chicago
2018	\$250	<b>Chicago Chapter Travel Award</b> , Graduate Women in Science
	\$2,055	<b>Carnes Award</b> , American Ornithological Society
	\$5,000	<b>Women in Science Graduate Research Funding</b> , Field Museum of Natural History
2017	\$22,500	<b>Alan Schriesheim ARCS Foundation Scholar</b> , ARCS Foundation of Illinois
	\$1,300	<b>Graduate Student Research Award</b> , Society for Systematic Biologists
	\$2,500	<b>Henry Hinds Fund for Graduate Student Research</b> , University of Chicago
	\$1,000	<b>Research Grant</b> , Illinois Ornithological Society
2016	\$10,575	<b>Pritzker Laboratory Summer Research Grant</b> , University of Chicago
2014	\$500	<b>Poster Presentation Award</b> , International Congress on Phthiraptera
	\$600	<b>Travel Award</b> , International Congress on Phthiraptera
	\$330	<b>Travel Award</b> , American Ornithologists' Union
2013	\$1,480	<b>Council on Africa Research Grant</b> , Field Museum of Natural History

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## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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### Selected Conference Presentations

- 2023 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease
- 2022 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Wildlife Haemosporidians  
American Society of Parasitologists  
Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists
- 2019 American Ornithological Society
- 2018 International Ornithological Conference  
American Ornithological Society

Heather R. Skeen CV

2015 Loyola University Chicago Weekend of Excellence  
Midwestern Ecology and Evolution Conference

2014 American Ornithological Society  
International Congress on *Phthiraptera*

Invited Research Seminars

2022 Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia  
Museums and Emerging Pathogens in the Americas (virtual)

2021 North Shore Bird Club, Evanston, Illinois (virtual)

2019 Cornell University, Ithaca, New York  
Chicago Audubon Society, Chicago, Illinois  
Field Museum Women's Board, Chicago, Illinois

2018 Women in Science, Chicago Chapter, Chicago, Illinois

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Instructor of Record

2024 **Writing in Evolutionary Biology – Biogeography emphasis**, Undergraduate course,  
University of Connecticut

2022 **Evolutionary Biology**, Undergraduate course, University of Connecticut

Guest Lecturer

2023 **The Extended Specimen**, Undergraduate seminar, University of Connecticut

2022 **Scales, feathers, bones, and leaves: the world of natural history collections**,  
Undergraduate seminar, University of Connecticut

2020 **Ecology in the Anthropocene**, Undergraduate course, University of Chicago

2015 **Bioinformatics**, Undergraduate course, Loyola University Chicago

2014 **Evolution**, Undergraduate course, Loyola University Chicago

Teaching Assistant

2021 **Fundamentals of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, Undergraduate non-major course,  
University of Chicago

2020 **Ecology in the Anthropocene**, Undergraduate course, University of Chicago

2020 **Course Design and College Teaching**, Graduate course, Chicago Center for Teaching,  
University of Chicago

2017 **Ecology in the Anthropocene**, Undergraduate course, University of Chicago

2015 **Bioinformatics**, Undergraduate course, Loyola University Chicago

2014 **Evolution**, Undergraduate course, Loyola University Chicago

Workshop Lead

2021 **Digitized museum resources in the classroom**, Chicago Center for Teaching, University of  
Chicago

2021 **Fundamentals of Teaching in STEM**, Chicago Center for Teaching, University of Chicago

## MENTORSHIP

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### **High School Students**

2011-2019 Fiona Collins, Northside College Prep  
Maggie Flaherty, Lane Tech High School  
Sophie Furlow, Latin School of Chicago  
Tanisa Lopez, Lake View High School  
Malia Wenny, Illinois Math and Science Academy

### **Undergraduate Students**

2011-2023 Andrew Cataldi, University of Connecticut  
Adrienne Chung, University of Illinois  
Fátima Flores Nina, Universidad Científica del Peru  
Ethan Gyllenhaal, University of Rochester  
Rebecca Jackson, University of Connecticut  
Sarah Kurtis, University of Chicago  
Jyothirmayee Mavillapalli, University of Connecticut  
Kit McDonnell, Tufts University  
Daniel Montgomery, University of Indiana  
Sandro Shampiana Mora, Universidad Científica del Peru  
Lucia Snyderman, Middlebury College  
David Tolmach, University of Connecticut  
Michelle Ziang, University of Illinois

### **Post-baccalaureate**

2015-2020 Kayleigh Kueffner, Art Institute of Chicago  
Kara Taylor, University of Chicago  
Brian Tsusu, University of Chicago  
Kristen Wacker, University of Chicago  
Julia Weiss, University of Michigan

### **Graduate Students**

2011-2022 Sean Finn, Loyola University Chicago  
Christopher Ivanovitch, University of Chicago  
Evelyn Lupancu, Loyola University Chicago  
Wanyoike Wamiti, Kenyatta University, Kenya

## OUTREACH AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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2024-pres. **Ambassador**, National Microbiome Data Collaborative  
2023 **Women in Science Saturday**, Connecticut Science Center  
2022-2023 **EEB Mentor Match**, mentor to one undergraduate student (virtual)  
2022 **Population Genetics Faculty Search Committee**, University of Connecticut  
2021-pres. **Museums and Emerging Pathogens in the Americas**, Core Team Member  
2020 **Graduate Student Admission Committee**, Student representative, Committee on Evolutionary Biology, University of Chicago  
2018 **Earth Day Festival Presentation**, Cat Island, The Bahamas  
2017 **Expand your Horizons Workshop Leader**, *Pathogen Prevalence Detection*, Chicago, Illinois

- 2016 **Upward Bound Workshop Leader**, *Pathogens and Museum Research*, Chicago, Illinois
- 2016 **Expand your Horizons Workshop Leader**, *Introduction to Field Work*, Chicago, Illinois
- 2015-2022 **Meet a Scientist**, Science Hub, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2014 **Sisters for Science**, Reavis Elementary Math and Science School, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 **Science Day presenter**, Raymond Ellis Elementary School, Round Lake Beach, Illinois
- 2013 **AVID Program speaker**, Mundelein High School, Mundelein, Illinois
- 2011-2022 **Talk to a Scientist**, Pritzker Lab, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2011-2022 **Women in Science**, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2010-2020 **Youth Program Educator**, Dozin' with the Dinos, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2009-2019 **Member's Night Open House**, Presenter, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2009-2019 **DNA Research Summer Residency**, Advisor, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2009-2011 **Educator Open House**, Organizer, Field Museum of Natural History
- 2008-2009 **AmeriCorps VISTA**, The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago

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## FIELD WORK

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- 2023 **Bermuda**  
**Connecticut**, Tolland County
- 2022 **Colombia**, Vichada, Tomogrande
- 2019 **Peru**, lowland Amazonia, with Universidad Científica del Peru
- 2018 **Michigan**, Upper Peninsula, Hiawatha National Forest  
**Michigan**, Lower Peninsula, Kirtland's Warbler Breeding Territories  
**The Bahamas**, Cat Island
- 2017 **Minnesota**, Superior National Forest  
**The Bahamas**, Cat Island
- 2013 **Peru**, Parque Nacional Cordillera Azul  
**Brazil**, Gurupi, Pará

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## REFERENCES

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**Dr. John Novembre**

*PhD Advisor*

Professor

Dept. of Human Genetics

Dept. of Ecology and Evolution

University of Chicago

[jnovembre@uchicago.edu](mailto:jnovembre@uchicago.edu)

**Dr. John Bates**

*Mentor*

Curator of Birds

Integrative Research Center

Field Museum of Natural Hist.

[jbates@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:jbates@fieldmuseum.org)

**Dr. Trevor Price**

*Mentor*

Professor

Dept. of Ecology and Evolution

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[pricet@uchicago.edu](mailto:pricet@uchicago.edu)