Chad J. Wilhite

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Phone:

Email: cwilhite[at]hawaii.edu
Twitter: @chadleebear
Website: chadwilhite.weebly.com

EDUCATION

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
M.S. Natural Resources and Environmental Management, *May 2021*
Thesis: Population Dynamics and Habitat Use of Pueo (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*)
GPA: 3.9

Humboldt State University
B.S. Cum Laude, Wildlife Management and Conservation, *December 2016*
Minor: Applied Statistics
Honors Thesis: A Test of Remotely Quantifying Porcupine Behavior with a Triaxial Accelerometer
GPA: 3.8

College of the Redwoods
General Education, *May 2014*
GPA: 3.5

RELEVENT EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant August 2018–June 2021
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai‘i

- Conduct surveys for pueo (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) across stakeholder lands
- Trap, band, collect blood samples, and tag pueo with VHF and GPS transmitters
- Write technical reports and give presentations to stakeholders
- Hire and supervise undergraduate technicians and volunteers (8)
- Mentor undergraduate student research (2)
- Provide statistical support to lab mates

Service

- 2018-present **President** (2020-present) and **Diversity and Ally Operations Chair** (2018-2020), Rainbow Lorikeets Committee of the American Ornithological Society and Out To Innovate affiliate

- 2019-2020 President, Graduate Student Organization of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management
- 2018-2021 Registered Independent Organization Liaison, Hawai‘i Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology

Avian Biologist May 2017–August 2018
SWCA Environmental Consultants, Las Vegas, Nevada

- Conducted avian surveys with a focus on raptors
- Drafted biological reports to address environmental impacts of development on avian species for a variety of large-scale renewable energy projects

Mojave Desert Tortoise Telemetry Technician March–May 2017
Research Associate Program
The Great Basin Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada

- Conducted radio-telemetry surveys for endangered Mojave desert tortoise as part of a range-wide population monitoring effort using line-distance sampling
- Permitted by the states of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to handle Mojave desert tortoise

Biological Technician May–August 2016
McCormick Biological, Inc., Bakersfield, California

- Conducted line transect surveys for endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizards
- Participated in a blunt-nosed leopard lizard radio-telemetry study
- Giant kangaroo rat trapping, burrow excavation, and relocation
- Conducted pre-activity flora and fauna surveys
- Conducted rare plant surveys for alkali mariposa lilies (*Calochortus striatus*)

Porcupine Intern September–December 2015
Humboldt State University, Arcata, California

- Captured, tagged, and tracked porcupines with VHF transmitters
- Recorded location with a GPS, local habitat characteristics, and porcupine behavior as part of a porcupine home range and habitat use study

Sediment Technician June 2013–September 2015
Northern California Resource Center, Fort Jones, California

- Conducted in-stream sediment surveys as part of an effort to develop standard sediment monitoring protocols for the Klamath National Forest and United States Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region
- Attended annual white-water safety, and biannual first aid trainings
- Navigated by map, compass, and GPS on foot and in manual 4WD vehicles to remote backcountry sites for extended backcountry stays

Student Collaborator June 2015–August 2015
Scientific Undergraduate Laboratory Internship
Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York

- Collaborated on a long-term Eastern box turtle radio-telemetry study exploring the impacts of large-scale solar development on turtle home range and habitat use
- Analyzed survey design to address potential bias resulting in an invited symposium presentation
- Participated with other ongoing laboratory research including bat mist netting and acoustic surveys, small mammal trapping, and forest vegetation surveys

PUBLICATIONS

Published

1. Idle, J. L., **C. J. Wilhite**, K. C. Harmon, B. M. Friswold and M. R. Price. 2021. Wedge-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna pacifica*) nesting success in human-dominated coastal environments. PeerJ 12096.
2. Bernard, J., C. B. Wall, M. S. Costantini, R. L. Rollins, M. L. Atkins, F. P. Cabrera, N. D. Cetraro, C. K. J. Feliciano, A. L. Greene, P. K. Kitamura, A. Olmedo-Velarde, V. N. S. Sirimalwatta, H. W. Sung, L. P. M. Thompson, H. T. Vu, **C. J. Wilhite** and A. S. Amend. 2021. Plant part and a steep environmental gradient predict plant microbial composition in a tropical watershed. The ISME Journal 15:999-1009.

Submitted or Near Submission

1. Cotin, J., **C. J. Wilhite**, K. E. Davis, J. Torrens Baile, A. Siddiqi, M. R. Price. Breeding phenology and daily activity of the Hawaiian short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) on O‘ahu. *Target journal*: Journal of Raptor Research.
2. Casillas, D., K. C. Harmon, L. Young, **C. J. Wilhite**, M. R. Price. Do recently translocated black-footed albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) chicks respond to artificial social attraction? *Target journal:* PeerJ.

PRESENTATIONS

First-author Professional Presentations

1. September, 2020. *Habitat Use of Pueo (Asio flammeus sandwichensis) in Hawai‘i.* Hawai‘i Conservation Conference. Honolulu, HI, USA
2. August, 2020. *Global Movement Patterns of Short-eared Owls (Asio flammeus).* North American Ornithological Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA
3. June, 2019. *Habitat Use of Hawaiian Short-eared Owls.* American Ornithological Society. Anchorage, AK, USA
4. August, 2015. *Micromovements and the Accuracy of Eastern Box Turtle Home Range Analysis.* Brookhaven National Laboratory Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship Symposium, Upton. NY, USA, *Invited*

Roundtables

1. July 2021. *A Moxed Flock: LGBTQIA+ Narratives Within Ornithology.* American Ornithological Society. Online.
2. August, 2020. *A Mixed Flock: Diverse Narratives Within Ornithology*. North American Ornithological Conference. Online, San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA

Posters

1. February, 2019. *Habitat Use of Hawaiian Short-eared Owls.* The Western Section of The Wildlife Society. Redding, CA, USA
2. October, 2019. *Habitat Use of Hawaiian Short-eared Owls*. The Wildlife Society. Reno, NV, USA
3. November, 2018. *Spatial Ecology of Hawaiian Short-eared Owls (Asio flammeus sandwichensis).* Symposium on Science in Support of Archipelago Management, Honolulu, HI, USA

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2018-present. **Pueo Project.** www.pueoproject.com Citizen science and community outreach program to provide access to educational resources in support of the conservation of pueo. Presented research to community groups such as the Hawai‘i Farmers Union United, the United States Navy, and state politicians as well as ran informational booths at public events.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2018-present	American Ornithological Society: *Rainbow Lorikeets Committee, President (2020-present) and Diversity and Ally Operations Chair (2018-2020),*
2018-present	Society for Conservation Biology: *2019-2021 Hawai‘i Chapter, Registered Independent Organization Liaison*
2019-present	Out to Innovate, *Affiliate Representative (2020-present)*
2018-present	The Wildlife Society
2018-present	Association of Field Ornithologists
2018-present	Wilson Ornithological Society
2018-present	Raptor Research Foundation

SKILLS

- Highly skilled with R, Microsoft Word and Excel
    - Experienced using kernel density space-use estimators, Bayesian and frequentist occupancy models, population modeling, and multivariate methods among others
- Bird banding (~300 birds, incoloy & aluminum butt-end and aluminum rivet bands)
- VHF radio-telemetry
- Wildlife capture, handling, and chemical sedation
    - Bal-chatri traps
    - Mist nets

    - Sherman traps
- Bird identification by sight and sound
- Microsoft Access
- Familiarity with ArcGIS, Program MARK, and DISTANCE
- Keying/identifying plants