

Ketki Samel

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EDUCATION

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

Advisor: Prof. Chris S. Elphick

Committee members: Prof. Robert Bagchi; Prof. Tracy Rittenhouse

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

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

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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)

PUBLICATIONS

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].

POSTERS

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. ESACSEE (Montréal, Canada)

TEACHING

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)

FIELDWORK

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)

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

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)