

# SARAH DOBNEY

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## EDUCATION

### PRESENT

**PHD INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY**, UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

I began an MSc program from Sept 2020 to Dec 2021. Having successfully passed a transfer exam I am now enrolled in the PhD program as of Jan 2022. Successfully passed the comprehensive exam Jan 2024.

### APRIL 2015

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

I completed a major in Zoology and a minor in Psychology: Brain and Cognition.

## SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

### 2024

**NSERC, PGS D**

\$120,000.00

**QEI GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DECLINED**

\$15,000.00

### 2023

**VERDECCHIA FAMILY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP,**

\$1,000.00

**STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD**, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

\$2,500.00

**ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP,**

\$15,000.00

### 2022

**BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION-EARLY PROGRAM AWARD,**

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

\$300.00

**QEI GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,**

\$15,000.00

**LYNDA CORKUM ESSEX COUNTY NATURE BURSARY,**

\$1,500.00

**DR. ROSS H PAUL SCHOLARSHIP IN GRADUATE STUDIES AWARD,**

\$1,000.00

**TAVERNER AWARD**, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS,

\$2,000.00

### 2021

**STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT**, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY

\$2,000.00

**COVID-RELIEF RESEARCH AWARD**, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

\$1,000.00

**MITACS RESEARCH TRAINING AWARD,**

\$6,000.00

## PUBLICATIONS

- Hensel AJL, DOBNEY SL, Doucet SM, Norris DR, Newman AEM, Williams H, Mennill DJ (2022). Microgeographical variation in bird song: Savannah Sparrows exhibit microdialects in an island population. *ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR*, 188, 119-131.
- Hensel AJL, DOBNEY SL, Moran I, Thomas IP, Burant JB, Woodworth BK, Doucet SM, Newman AEM, Norris DR, Williams H, Mennill DJ (2022). Passive acoustic monitoring provides predictable and reliable underestimates of population size and longevity in wild Savannah Sparrows. *ORNITHOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS*, 124, 1-11.
- DOBNEY SL, Bornais MMK, Norris DR, Newman AEM, Williams H, Doucet SM, Mennill DJ (2023). Quiet in the nest: the nest environment attenuates song in a grassland songbird. *AVIAN RESEARCH*, 14, 100148.
- Williams H, DOBNEY SL, Robins C, Norris DR, Newman AEM, Doucet SM, Mennill DJ (2024). Familiarity and homogeneity affect the discrimination of a song dialect. *ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR*, 209, 9-20.
- Aubin JA, DOBNEY SL, Foreman SAM, Doucet SM, Norris DR, Williams H, Mennill DJ (2024). Birds respond more strongly to locally-common versus locally-rare songs: a playback experiment with Savannah sparrows. *ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR*, 212, 127-135.
- Suarez Sharma SP, DOBNEY SL, Norris DR, Doucet SM, Newman AEM, Burant JB, Moran IG, Mueller SD, Spina HA, Mennill DJ (2024). Effect of age, breeding strategy, population density, and number of neighbors on territory size and shape in *Passerculus sandwichensis* (Savannah Sparrow). *ORNITHOLOGY*, 141, 1-10.
- Mueller SD, Wheelwright NT, Mennill DJ, Newman AEM, Doucet SM, Burant JB, DOBNEY SL, Mitchell GM, Spina HA, Woodworth BK, Norris DR (2024). Reduced fitness of secondary females in a polygynous species: a 32-yr study of Savannah sparrows. *BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY*, arae093.
- Spina HA, Norris DR, Nong L, DOBNEY SL, Mueller SD, Freeman NE, Doucet SM, Mennill DJ, Newman AEM (2025). Corticosterone predicts double-brooding in female Savannah sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). *HORMONES AND BEHAVIOR*, 168, 105679

## PRESENTATIONS

- DOBNEY SL, (2023). All quiet on the nestling front: the nest environment attenuates song. AOS/SCO Conference.
- DOBNEY SL, (2023). Quiet in the nest: the nest environment attenuates song in a grassland songbird. ABS Twitter conference.
- DOBNEY SL, (2022). Quiet in the nest: the nest environment attenuates song in a grassland songbird. SCO\_SOC virtual conference.

## POSTERS

- DOBNEY SL, Spina H, Norris R, Williams H, Doucet S, Mennill D (2024). Sexy singers or food bringers? A test of the parenting-mating trade-off hypothesis. ABS Conference.

## EXPERIENCE

**JUNE 2019 – OCT 2019**

**MARBLD MURRELET RESEARCH TECHNICIAN**, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

- Conducted dawn surveys for marbled murrelets to monitor breeding status and determine occupied versus unoccupied forest sites.
- Searched for active nest sites.
- Assessed vegetation at random locations throughout the forest to compare occupied and non-occupied sites
- Entered data and created maps of murrelet activity.

#### **JULY 2018 – APRIL 2019**

##### **TEAM COORDINATOR, CARE PARTNERS**

- Developed daily in-home nursing visits for multiple nurse teams in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.
- I maintained patient and nurse confidential information.
- Maintained positive relationships with nurses, patients, coworkers, and funders.
- Processed routine incoming information from funders and private-pay clients.

#### **OCT 2017 – JAN 2018**

##### **SAMPLE PREPARATION TECHNICIAN, LABSTAT INTERNATIONAL**

- Prepared solutions for analysis from e-cigarette samples, in the chemistry department.
- Transferred samples, prepared solutions and performed chemical extractions for several compounds and substances.
- Utilized and maintained lab equipment, prepared and cleaned glassware.
- Maintained a clean and organized work station.
- Complied with health and safety policies and procedures by wearing personal protective equipment, and cleaning and disposing of used materials properly.

#### **JUNE 2011 – SEPT 2017**

##### **FOREST BIRDS AT RISK FIELD TECHNICIAN, BIRD STUDIES CANADA**

- Conducted forest surveys for breeding bird species at risk: Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Prothonotary Warbler.
- Conducted point count surveys and habitat assessments to monitor populations of all forest bird species in southwestern Ontario and Frontenac regions, with a primary focus on Cerulean Warblers and Acadian Flycatchers.
- Searched for and monitored nests of target species.
- Colour banded Louisiana Waterthrush young and adults at nest sites.
- Entered and analyzed data, wrote annual summary reports.
- Created Forest Bird Species at Risk factsheets for stewardship aids.
- Created positive relationships with private and public landowners.
- Returned in 2017 as Field Supervisor, supervising other field technicians, coordinating and overseeing all field work and data entry, and preparing all documents in timely manner.

#### **MAR 2017 – MAY 2017**

##### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, KAUAI FOREST BIRDS RECOVERY PROJECT**

- Conducted forest surveys for breeding Akikiki, Akeke'e and Puaiohi.
- Searched for and monitored nests.
- Assisted with egg collections from Akikiki nests for captive breeding program at the San Diego Zoo.
- Assisted with radio telemetry monitoring several Akeke'e pairs.

#### **MAY 2016 – AUG 2016**

##### **SEASONAL AVIAN ECOLOGIST, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

- Conducted forest surveys for breeding black-throated blue warblers.
- Searched for and monitored nests.

- Colour-banded and blood sampled adults and nestlings at nest sites.
- Performed habitat, insect, and nest predator surveys in forest plots.

**OCT 2015 – JAN 2016**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- Conducted forest surveys for breeding red-winged fairy-wrens.
- Searched for and monitored nests.
- Colour-banded and blood sampled all adults and nestlings at nest sites.
- Performed nest watches during nestling period to compare feeding rates of each individual in family groups.

**SEPT 2012 – APR 2015**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

- Held positions in fall and winter semesters from 2012 to 2015 in Akerman lab.
- Cultured mussel species at risk.
- Fed and cared for various mussel and fish species in Hagen Aqualab.
- Entered and analyzed data. Researched new culturing methods.
- Directly supervised and trained two volunteers during winter of 2015.

**SEPT 2011 – APR 2012**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

- Cultured fruit fly populations for a migration experiment in the Norris lab.
- Entered and analyzed data from multiple ongoing projects in lab.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**2023**

**BIRDING WALK**

I led a September birding walk at Brunet Park, near LaSalle, Ontario. This event was coordinated by the Friends of Ojibway.

**2022**

**BIRDING WALK**

I led a September birding walk for beginners at Black Oak Park, near Windsor, Ontario. This event was coordinated by the Friends of Ojibway.

**2019**

**PUBLIC MARBLED MURLETTE SURVEY**

As a research technician for Oregon State University, working with Marbled Murrelets, I led two morning surveys to search for Marbled Murrelets at Cape Perpetua, Oregon, and to teach groups of public participants about murrelets and how to find them.

## SKILLS

- Nest searching
- Bird banding
- Public outreach
- Time management
- Project supervision