

SEAN CHRISTOPHER LYON

www.seanclion.com

slyon@fieldmuseum.org

orcid.org/0000-0001-7811-9560

www.linkedin.com/in/seanlyonbirdwatcher

Merced, California, USA 95348

CURRENT ROLES



Doctoral Researcher: University of California, Merced



Founder and Guide: Bird Walks with Sean



Executive Board Director of Outreach and Recruitment: Project SHORT



Research Associate: Field Museum of Natural History

EDUCATION

- 2023 - Ph.D. Student: Quantitative and Systems Biology** emphasis in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
Advisor: Dr. Matthew C. Hutchinson
- 2023 Casanova Research Fellow**
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Advisor: Dr. Rauri C.K. Bowie
Project: *Phenotypic and Genomic Correlates of Climate in Canada Jays (Perisoreus canadensis)*
- 2023 M.Sc. Environmental Science: Avian Ecology**
California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Advisor: Dr. Eric M. Wood. Committee: A. Shultz, A. Wright, T. Longcore, D. Willard
Thesis: *Quantifying the Effects of 120 Years of Urban Development on the Avian Community of the Los Angeles Basin*
- 2019 B.Sc. Interdisciplinary Studies: Biology and Business**
Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
Advisor: Dr. L. Kristen Page
Honors Thesis: *Promoting Restorative Landscape Use: Birds and the Need for Ecologically-Sustainable Agricultural Business*
- 2016 CORE: Credential of Readiness in Business**
Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA
- 2013 New Visions Life Science**
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- 2021-23 Collections Manager**
Roland C. Ross Bird Collection, California State University at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021-23 Curatorial Assistant**
Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019-21 Collections Assistant, Bird Collections**
The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL

- 2018-19 Digitization Specialist, Insect Collections**
The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL
- 2019 IUCN Amphibian Red List Authority Program Officer**
Re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation), Austin, TX
- 2018 Senior Research Assistant**
Center for Vocation and Career, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
- 2017 Agroecology Research Intern**
ECHO East Africa Regional Impact Center, Ngaramtoni, Arusha Region, Tanzania
- 2015-17 Fishkeeper and Greenhouse Caretaker**
Biology Department, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
- 2016 Summer Research Support Assistant**
Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Earle C. Anthony Fellow**
University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
- 2023 CONDESA Science and Engineering of Environmental Sensors Incubator for 2024** (declined offer)
National Science Foundation NRT Award #2125510, University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
- 2023 Blackstone Ideas Competition Grand Prize Winner: Social + Climate Impact**
Office of Research and Economic Development, University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
- 2022-23 Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar**
California Pre-Doctoral Program, California State University Chancellor's Office, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022-23 James M. Rosser Emeriti Fellow**
California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022-23 Dr. Hari Sethi Memorial Fellow**
California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 NSF Graduate Research Fellow, *Honorable Mention***
National Science Foundation
- 2022 NSF REU/Research Opportunity Award Grassland Researcher**
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, East Bethel, MN
- 2022 Special Recognition in Graduate Studies Award**
California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow for Swahili** (declined offer)
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2016-17 Climate Leadership Fellow**
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, Wheaton, IL
- 2016 Grand Prize Award Winner**
IDEA Generators Conference of the Issachar Fund, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Wallace-Carver Fellow**
USDA ARS Thad Cochran Research Center, Poplarville, MS

FUNDING

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|-------------|--|---------|
| 2024 | Earle C. Anthony Recruitment Fellowship
<i>University of California at Merced, Merced, CA</i> | \$8,000 |
| 2024 | Quantitative and Systems Biology Travel Fellowship
<i>University of California at Merced, Merced, CA</i> | \$750 |

2023	Blackstone Ideas Competition Grand Prize: Social + Climate Impact <i>Office of Research and Economic Development, University of California, Merced</i>	\$1,000
2023	Graduate Fellowship Incentive Program Award <i>Graduate Division, University of California, Merced</i>	\$200
2023	Casanova Research Fellowship at UC Berkeley <i>California Pre-Doctoral Program, California State University Chancellor's Office</i>	\$13,495
2023	Competitive Edge Summer Bridge Program (declined offer) <i>University of California at Merced, Merced, CA</i>	\$5,000
2022-23	Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarship <i>California Pre-Doctoral Program, California State University Chancellor's Office</i>	\$3,000
2022	Historical Ecology Research Grant <i>Pasadena Audubon Society, Pasadena, CA</i>	\$2,600
2021	Field Study Project Small Grant <i>Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, Pacific Palisades, CA</i>	\$545
2021-23	Haynes Foundation Graduate Grant <i>John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, Los Angeles, CA</i>	\$25,642
2021-22	Graduate Non-Resident Tuition Fee Waiver <i>California State University at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA</i>	\$9,504
2017	Language Learning Scholarship to study Swahili in Tanzania <i>Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL</i>	\$1,500
2017	John Stott Travel Scholarship for research in Tanzania <i>Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL</i>	\$2,000
2016	Praxis Academy Full Tuition Scholarship <i>Praxis Academy, Los Angeles, CA</i>	\$995
2016	Credential of Readiness in Business (CORE) Program Scholarship <i>Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA</i>	\$1,500

PUBLICATIONS

2024	Campbell, R.M.L., Lyon, S. , ... and C.J. Clark. Exceptional Plumage of Female Anna's Hummingbird (<i>Calypte anna</i>) in Los Angeles. <i>Western Birds</i> . (in review)
2024	Lyon, S. Böhm's Bee-eater (<i>Merops boehmi</i>), version 2.0. In Birds of the World (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. (in prep)
2023	Lyon, S. , and E. Wood. Chapter 7: Modeling the Historical Bird Communities of the Los Angeles Basin. pp 69-92 In Longcore, T. and P.J. Ethington, eds. <i>Mapping Los Angeles Landscape History: The Indigenous Landscape</i> . Report to the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. Spatial Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. 9 October 2023. (link)
2020	Lyon, S. , Page, K., and E. Kinsey. Promoting Biodiversity on Maize Smallholdings: The Importance of Birds. <i>ECHO Development Notes</i> . 147:5-8. 14 April 2020. (link to English) (Spanish) (French) (Swahili)
2019	Lyon, S. Tool-Use in the American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>) in an Illinois Suburb. <i>Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds</i> . Vol. 29.1-2:5. (link)
2018	Lyon, S. Promoting Restorative Landscape Use: Birds and the Need for Ecologically-Sustainable Agricultural Business. Senior thesis. <i>Wheaton College</i> . 6 May 2018. (link)
2012	Lyon, S. Mali: Employing Infrastructural Innovation Techniques to Combat Water Scarcity and Improve Agricultural Efficiency. <i>World Food Prize Foundation</i> . August 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024** Lyon, S., Ethington, P., Hall, L., Longcore, T., Safran, S., Shultz, A., and E. Wood. Urbanizing Los Angeles: Using Museums and Atlas Data to Model Bird Occupancy Changes Over a Century. Oral: *British Ornithologists' Union Urban Birds Conference 2024*. Nottingham, England, UK
- 2023** Lyon, S., Ethington, P., Hall, L., Longcore, T., Safran, S., Shultz, A., and E. Wood. The Effects of 120 Years of Urbanization on the Avifauna of the Los Angeles Basin. Oral: *American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists Joint Conference*. London, Ontario, Canada
- 2023** Wood, E., Lyon, S., Longcore, T., Ethington, P., Hall, L., and A. Shultz. The Effects of Over a Century of Urbanization on the Avifauna of the Los Angeles Basin. Oral: *International Urban Wildlife Conference*. Washington, D.C.
- 2022** Lyon, S., Witynski, M., and D. Willard. American Woodcock Migration in Chicago, Revisited. Poster: *American Ornithological Society and BirdsCaribbean Joint Conference*. San Juan, Puerto Rico ([link](#))
- 2022** Safran, S., Lyon, S., and E. Wood. Extinction Next-Door: Evaluating Long-Term Changes in the Occupancy of Cities by Birds. Oral: *American Ornithological Society and BirdsCaribbean Joint Conference*. San Juan, Puerto Rico ([link](#))
- 2022** Lyon, S. Leveraging Bird Specimens to Quantify the Historical Effects of Urbanization on Avifauna in Los Angeles. Oral: *Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities*. California State University at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019** Kueffner, K., Lyon, S., and B. Marks. PLUME: Phenotype Linkage Utilizing Multimedia in EMu. Poster: *Wilson Ornithological Society/Association of Field Ornithologists Joint Meeting*. Cape May, NJ ([link](#))
- 2018** Lyon, S. Human Health and the Environment: Tanzanian Agroecology. Oral: *Human Needs and Global Resources Symposium*. Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
- 2012** Lyon, S. Youth delegate representative speaker: *World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue*. Des Moines, IA

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

- Apr. 2024** Invited talk: Urbanizing Los Angeles: Bird Occupancy Changes. *Urban Birds*. British Ornithologists' Union
- Dec. 2023** Guest lecture: Professional Storytelling: From CV to Career. *Sexton Lab*. University of California, Merced
- Jun. 2022** Invited talk: Past and Present of SoCal's Wild Birds. Chirp Nature Center, Big Bear Lake, CA ([link](#))
- May 2022** Invited talk: Bird Specimens to Quantify Urbanization. California State University 3-Min Thesis Competition
- Jan. 2020** Guest lecture: Audubon and Natural History Collections. *HUMA 14100*. University of Chicago, IL
- Apr. 2018** Guest lecture: Creation Care and Global Justice. *CORE 101: Our Place in Creation*. Wheaton College, IL
- Mar. 2018** Guest lecture: Tanzanian Agroecology. *SCI 200: Pre-Health Professions*. Wheaton College, IL

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

- 2024** **Teaching Assistant:** BIO 141, Evolution
University of California at Merced, Merced, CA
- 2023** **Teaching Assistant:** ESS 1, Introduction to Earth Systems Science
University of California at Merced, Merced, CA
- 2023-pres** **Graduate Application Mentor**
Project SHORT
- 2024** Oliver Draffen, UC Merced, *Letter of recommendation for REU*
- 2024** Richard Medina, UC Merced, *Essay review and letter of recommendation for multiple opportunities*
- 2023** James Waterford, UC Merced, *NSF GRFP essay review for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*
- 2023** Anastasia Lyon, Wheaton College, *Graduate school application counseling for Neurobiology*
- 2022-23** Eliza Kirsch, Occidental College, *NSF GRFP and graduate school applicant in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, now USC*

SCIENCE OUTREACH AND SERVICE

- 2020-pres** Founder and Guide: Bird Walks with Sean • www.birdwalkswithsean.com
- 2023-pres** Director of Outreach and Recruitment: Project SHORT • www.project-short.com
- 2023** Outreach Volunteer, Berkeley Bird Festival, Berkeley, CA • www.berkeleybirdfestival.org
- 2023** Alumni Panelist, Wheaton College Admitted Students Recruitment Event, Costa Mesa, CA
- 2022** Volunteer: CaleDNA Los Angeles River Bioblitz, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020-22** Class Speaker: 5th Grade Class at The Academy for Global Citizenship, Chicago, IL
- 2016-18** Founding Member and Co-President: Thunderbirds: Wheaton's Original Ornithological Society
- 2013** Conservation Volunteer: Macaw Recovery Network, Punta Islita, Costa Rica
- 2012** Youth Delegate: World Food Prize Borlaug International Symposium, Des Moines, IA

MASS MEDIA

- 2023** Consulted for "Tribal leaders and researchers have mapped the ancient 'lost suburbs' of Los Angeles" by L. Sahagún and S. Greene. *Los Angeles Times*. 9 October. ([link](#))
- 2023** Authored "Conversations with Sean Lyon" *VoyageLA*. 10 July. ([link](#))
- 2023** Featured in "Birding is Hollywood's New Form of Meditation" by H. Meares. *The Hollywood Reporter*. 6 June. ([link](#))
- 2021** Video appearance in "LA Times Today: Where to find L.A.'s little-known stash of vintage birds." *Los Angeles Times*. 1 December. ([link](#))
- 2021** Photographer of images appearing in "Why some animals are shrinking." *Vox*. 12 August. ([link](#), >720K views)
- 2018** Featured in "Generation Climate: Can Young Evangelicals Change the Climate Debate?" by M. Subramanian. *Inside Climate News*. 18 October. ([link](#))
- 2014** Featured in "Tompkins area students fight hunger through fellowships" by S. Hazlitt. *The Ithaca Journal*. 21 August. ([link](#))

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R Coding • Occupancy Modeling • Rangemapping • Museum Databases: EMu, Arctos • ArcGIS • Specimen Preparation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Research Associate	<i>Field Museum of Natural History</i>
Executive Board Member	<i>Project SHORT</i>
Member	<i>American Ornithological Society</i>
Early Career Member	<i>British Ornithologists' Union</i>
Member	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
Member	<i>Wilson Ornithological Society</i>
Member	<i>Society for the Study of Evolution</i>
Board Member	<i>Student Alumni Board, Wheaton College, 2015-16</i>

LANGUAGES

English	<i>Native speaker</i>
Spanish	<i>Professional working proficiency</i>
Swahili	<i>Conversational proficiency</i>
Portuguese	<i>Elementary proficiency</i>
Arabic	<i>Elementary proficiency</i>