

Elana Rae Engert
Ecological and evolutionary physiology group
Unit for Evolutionary Ecology and Infection Biology

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Research

I am fascinated by animals that live in and move through extreme environments. I am interested in the different coping mechanisms that migrants and residents have evolved to deal with seasonality and how they will respond to climate change. For my PhD, I aim to find out what metabolic rates can tell us about life history strategies and trade-offs in blue tits, a small resident song bird in a highly seasonal environment. During my masters at Lund University, I studied maximum fueling rates in migratory songbirds in Öland, a migration stopover site in southern Sweden.

Alongside my research interests, I am an outdoor enthusiast and nature nerd and my true habitat is on a trail somewhere in the mountains. Although birds are my favorite organisms, I have worked with a range of taxa from bison to elephant seals.

You can find me in the ecology building in office B272.

Employment

Doctoral student

Evolutionary Ecology and Infection Biology
Lund University
Lund, Sweden
2024 Apr 5 → present

Qualifications

Animal Ecology, Master of Science, Fueling behavior in passerines with different migratory distances and wintering grounds in autumn, Lund University
2019 → 2021

Evolutionary Ecology, Bachelor of Science, University of California, Santa Cruz
2012 → 2016

2021 Avian Surveyor, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, CA, USA

2019 Bird Survey Crew Leader, Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, CA, USA

2018 Bird Survey Field Technician, Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, CA, USA

2018 Burrowing Owl Monitoring Technician, Point Blue Conservation Science, Farallon Islands, CA, USA

2017 → 2018 California Condor Conservation Technician, Ventana Wildlife Society, Big Sur, CA, USA

2017 Bird Bander (Ringer), Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, CA, USA

2015 → 2017 Research Intern, Lyon Lab, UC Santa Cruz, CA, USA

2014 → 2015 Elephant Seal Monitoring Intern, Ano Nuevo State Park, CA, USA

2014 Bison Monitoring Technician, American Prairie Reserve, MT, USA

Research outputs

Using metabolic data to investigate the role of brood size in the development of endothermy

Engert, E. R., Andreasson, F., Nord, A. & Nilsson, J. Å., 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In: Journal of Avian Biology. e03301.

Autumn fueling behavior in passerines in relation to migratory distance and daylength

Engert, E. R., Hellström, M. & Åkesson, S., 2023, In: Ecology and Evolution. 13, 1, e9571.

Awards

Repeatability and fitness of metabolic rates in a wild bird

Engert, R. (PI)

Stiftelsen Lunds Djurskyddsfond: SEK35,000.00

2024/11/25 → 2026/11/24