

Molly Tankersley McDermott

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology , University of Colorado Boulder	<i>Expected 2021</i>
Non-breeding environmental effects on sexual signaling	
M.S. Biological Sciences , University of Alaska Fairbanks	<i>2017</i>
Arthropods and passerine diet: The effects of shrub expansion in NW Alaska	
B.S. Biology, B.A. Music , The Evergreen State College	<i>2012</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Wildlife Biologist , U.S. Geological Survey	<i>2013 - 2017</i>
Research Technician II , University of Alaska Anchorage	<i>2012 - 2013</i>
Research Technician , University of Alaska Anchorage	<i>2011, 2012</i>
Laboratory Technician , The Evergreen State College	<i>2011 - 2012</i>
Research Assistant , University of Alaska Anchorage	<i>2011</i>

PUBLICATIONS

- McDermott, M. T.**, C. M. Handel, P. Doak, and G. A. Breed. High diet diversity of arctic passerine nestlings revealed by next-generation sequencing. *Auk* – *in prep.*
- McDermott, M. T.**, P. Doak, C. M. Handel, G. A. Breed, and C. P. Mulder. Willow drives changes in arthropod communities of northwestern Alaska: Ecological implications of shrub expansion. *Ecosphere* – *in prep.*
- Schroeter, Isabel; Forrester, Chiara; Brigham, Laurel; Fried, Erin; Grabenstein, Kathryn; Karban, Claire; **McDermott, Molly**. Diverging from the Dogma: A Call to Train Creative Thinkers in Science. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* – *Accepted.*
- Carscadden, K, SP Turbek, **MT McDermott**, A Martin. Building bridges: An active learning lesson in evolution and collaboration. *Journal of College Science Teaching* – *in press.*
- McDermott, M. T.**, New findings of twisted-wing parasites (Strepsiptera) in Alaska. *Newsletter of the Alaska Entomological Society*, 2016, Vol. 9(1), pp. 6-8

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant**, Evolution, University of Colorado Boulder, *Spring 2018*
- Teaching Assistant**, General Biology, University of Colorado Boulder, *Fall 2017*
- Instructor**, Alaska Summer Research Academy, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *Summer 2017*
- Teaching Assistant**, Evolution, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *Fall 2014, Spring 2015 & 2016*

FELLOWSHIPS

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| <i>2018-2019</i> | Center for the Study of Origins Graduate Research Fellowship |
| <i>Summer 2018</i> | NEST Studio for the Arts (w/ A. Treher) - \$5,000 |
| <i>2016</i> | Calvin Lensink Memorial Fellowship - \$10,000 |

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2018 National Geographic Early Career Grant - **\$5,000**
American Ornithological Society Hesse Award - **\$2,500**
CU Boulder Ecology & Evolution Research Award - **\$2,500**
Colorado Field Ornithologists Grant - **\$1,500**
- 2017 Outstanding Teaching Assistant – University of Alaska Fairbanks
- 2016 UAF Graduate School Travel Grant - **\$600**
David Burnett Dunn Memorial Scholarship - **\$600**
- 2015 UAF College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Travel Award - **\$740**
Graduate Climate Conference Travel Award - **\$1,000**
Angus Gavin Migratory Bird Research Grant - **\$6,150**
David Burnett Dunn Memorial Scholarship - **\$2,500**
Arctic Audubon Small Grant - **\$1,000**
- 2014 UAF CLA Collaborative Arts Grant - **\$650**
- 2012 Byron Youtz Memorial Scholar - **\$1,500**
- 2008 Evergreen Transfer Incentive Scholarship - **\$2,000**
- 2006 National Merit Scholar - **\$9,000**

INVITED TALKS

- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, P Doak, and GA Breed. Arthropods and Songbird Diet in a Changing Arctic Ecosystem. Denali National Park, Alaska, *June 30, 2017*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. Consequences of shrub expansion: Effects on arctic songbirds. Arctic Audubon, Fairbanks, Alaska, *November 2, 2015*

PRESENTATIONS (*POSTER)

- *McDermott, MT and Safran, RJ. How does non-breeding environment affect sexual signaling? A comparative analysis of migratory and non-migratory Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). EBIO Spring Symposium, Boulder, CO, *April 27, 2018*
- *McDermott, MT and Safran, RJ. How does non-breeding environment affect sexual signaling? A comparative analysis of migratory and non-migratory Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). American Ornithological Society, Tucson, AZ, *April 15, 2018*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, P Doak, GA Breed, and CP Mulder. Arthropod communities and passerine diet: Effects of shrub expansion in Western Alaska. University of Colorado Boulder department seminar, *November 29, 2017*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. Herbivores, pollinators, predators – who benefits from shrub growth? Midnight Sun Science Symposium, Fairbanks, AK, *April 14, 2017*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. No picky eaters: Nestling diet in W. Alaska. Alaska Bird Conference, Cordova, AK, *December 8, 2016 (Best student presentation)*
- McDermott, MT. Mating Systems. Earth Day Speed Talks, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska, *April 22, 2016 (Best talk)*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. Response of arthropod communities to shrub expansion in W. Alaska. Midnight Sun Science Symposium, Fairbanks, AK, *April 8, 2016*
- McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. Response of arthropod communities to shrub expansion in W. Alaska. Alaska Wildlife Society Meeting, Anchorage, AK, *March 31, 2016*

McDermott, MT, CM Handel, and P Doak. Response of arthropod communities to shrub expansion in W. Alaska. Alaska Entomological Society, Anchorage, AK, *January 30, 2016*
(Best student presentation)

McDermott, MT and P Doak. Impacts of shrub expansion on food availability for migratory passerines in W. Alaska. Graduate Climate Conference, Woods Hole, MA, *November 6, 2015*

McDermott, MT and P Doak. Patterns of terrestrial insect diversity on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. Alaska Entomological Society Meeting, Fairbanks, AK, *January 24, 2015*

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Co-organizer, Brown Bag Department Seminar, CU Boulder, *2018 - present*

Member, Evolution Outreach Committee, CU Boulder, *2017 - present*

Member, Course Budget Improvement Committee, CU Boulder, *2017 - present*

Organizer & Biologist, Side by Side: An art-science community event, *2018*

Visiting Scientist, CU Discovery Science Camp, *2018*

Outreach Volunteer, CU Museum of Natural History Family Days, *2018*

Bike Deliveries, Boulder Food Rescue, *2017 - 2018*

Co-President, Biology Graduate Student Association, UAF, *2016-2017*

Guest Instructor, Ryan Middle School, *2016*

Scientist in the Classroom, Tanana Middle School, *2015 – 2016*

Science Fair Judge, Fairbanks Middle Schools, *2015, 2016*

Editorial Board Member, Alaska Entomological Society, *2016*

Docent, Calypso Farm & Ecology Center, *2015*

Outreach Educator and Fundraiser, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, *2012-2014*

Workshop Instructor, Evergreen Science Carnival, *2011-2012*

PRESS

["Pushing Boundaries: Graduate students think like barn swallows to craft an artistic nesting site"](#) CU Boulder Today, Sep 5, 2018

["Audubon Talk Looks at Impact of Shrub Expansion"](#) Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Oct 29, 2015

["Bird Camp"](#) KNOM Radio Mission Feature, Jun 24, 2014

MENTORING

Sage Madden, University of Colorado Boulder. 2018-present.

Sabela Vasquez-Ray, University of Colorado Boulder. 2018-present.

Abby Marynowski, University of Colorado Boulder. Awarded \$2500 as a Biological Sciences Initiative Scholar. 2018- present.

Hannah DeZara, University of Colorado Boulder. 2018.

Katie Sanko, University of California Berkeley. 2018.

Jessica Herzog, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Awarded \$1500 by the Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Activity fund, culminating in several poster presentations and talks. 2015-2017.

Renee Nowicki, University of Alaska Fairbanks. 2016-2017.

Tazheem Rubio, University of Alaska Fairbanks. 2016.

Patrick Smith, University of Alaska Fairbanks. 2015.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Ornithological Society
Society for the Study of Evolution
Society of Systematic Biologists
Wilson Ornithological Society
Ecological Society of America
Colorado Field Ornithologists