

KEVIN R. BURGIO

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am broadly interested in the processes that form, and limit, where species are distributed, and their roles are in communities and ecosystems. I use an integrative approach to examine community assembly, the effects of climate change on communities, and extinction. My goal is to help bridge the divide between ecological theory and on-the-ground conservation in order to make the best possible decisions not just for today, but also for the future.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

I am a strong proponent of reflective teaching practices, direct mentoring, and engaging students in meaningful, hands-on activities and experiences to give students an opportunity not only to master the material, but to give them the tools they need to think critically in all aspects of their life. I am a vocal advocate for increasing inclusiveness in higher education, based on my own background as a first-generation, non-traditional student, who is also LGBT and a military veteran.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 2017 - **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut
- 2017 **Ph.D.** Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut
Dissertation topic: “Extinction, climate change, and the conservation of parrots: developing the models and tools needed to help save the world’s most endangered order of birds”
- 2010 **B.A.** (*Summa cum laude*, University Scholar), University of Connecticut
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

PUBLICATIONS: H-index: 7. i10-index: 5. *denotes undergraduate mentee

Lead-authored – published

Burgio, K.R., C.J. Carlson, A.L. Bond. 2018. Georeferenced sighting and specimen occurrence data of the extinct Carolina Parakeet 1564 - 1944. *BIODIVERSITY DATA JOURNAL*. 6: e25280. DOI: [10.3897/BDJ.6.e25280](https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.6.e25280)

- news coverage: [Pensoft Blog](#), [History of Ornithology](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 54 \(top 5%\)](#)

Burgio, K.R., C.J. Carlson, and M.W. Tingley. 2017. Lazarus ecology: recovering the natural history of the extinct Carolina parakeet. *ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION*. 7:5467–5475. DOI: [10.1002/ece3.3135](https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.3135)

- news coverage: [Washington Post](#), [IFLScience](#), [Salon](#), [Smithsonian Magazine](#), [Birding Magazine](#), [Forbes](#), [Audubon Magazine](#), [Stuff You Missed in History Class](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 160 \(top 5%\)](#)

Burgio, K.R., C.R. van Rees, *K.E. Block**, P. Pyle, M.A. Patten, M. Spreyer, and E.H. Bucher. 2016. Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) in *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE* (P. Rodewald ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. DOI: [10.2173/bna.322](https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.322)

Burgio, K.R., M.A. Rubega, and D. Sustaita. 2014. Nest-building behavior of Monk Parakeets and insights into potential mechanisms for reducing damage to utility poles. *PEERJ*. 2:e601 DOI:[10.7717/peerj.601](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.601)

- News coverage: [NPR](#), [New Hampshire Public Radio](#), and [Hartford Business Journal](#)

Lead-authored – in review or revision

Burgio, K.R., K.E. Davis, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, L.M. Cisneros, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. Strategic conservation: parrots, multiple dimensions of biodiversity, and climate change. *BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION*.

Burgio, K.R., K.E. Davis, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, L.M. Cisneros, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. *In revision*. A complete phylogenetic supertree and trait database for all extant parrots. *DATA IN BRIEF*.

Burgio, K.R., L.M. Cisneros, K.E. Davis, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, B.D. Patterson, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. *In revision*. Dimensions of passerine biodiversity along a tropical elevational gradient: a nexus for historical biogeography and contemporary ecology. *ECOGRAPHY*.

Co-authored – published

Bond, A.L., C.J. Carlson, and **K.R. Burgio**. 2018. Local extinction of insular avifauna on the most remote inhabited island in the world. *JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY*. DOI: [10.1007/s10336-018-1590-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10336-018-1590-8)

Carlson, C.J., A.L. Bond, and K.R. Burgio. 2018. Re-evaluating sighting models, and moving beyond them, to test and contextualize the extinction of the thylacine. *CONSERVATION BIOLOGY*. DOI: [10.1111/cobi.13187](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13187)

- news coverage: [IFLScience](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 14 \(top 25%\)](#)

Carlson, C.J., A.L. Bond, and **K.R. Burgio**. 2018. Estimating the extinction date of the Thylacine accounting for unconfirmed sightings. *CONSERVATION BIOLOGY*. 32: 477-483. DOI: [10.1111/cobi.13037](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13037)

- news coverage: [Vice](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 147 \(top 5%\)](#)

Carlson, C.J., **K.R. Burgio**, T.A. Dallas, and W.M. Getz. *In press*. The mathematics of extinction across scales: from populations to the biosphere. *THE MATHEMATICS OF PLANET EARTH*, 2nd ed. [Preprint available](#)

Carlson, C.J, **K.R. Burgio**, E.R. Dougherty, A.J. Phillips, V.M. Bueno, C.F. Clements, G. Castaldo, T. Dallas, C.A. Cizauskas, G. Cumming, J. Doña, N.C. Harris, R. Jovani, S. Mironov, O. Muellerklein, H.C. Proctor, and W.M. Getz. 2017. Parasite biodiversity faces extinction and redistribution in a changing climate. *SCIENCE ADVANCES*. 3(9): e1602422 DOI: [10.1126/sciadv.1602422](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1602422)

- news coverage: [NY Times](#), [Popular Science](#), [Smithsonian Magazine](#), and [the Guardian](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 450 \(top 5%\)](#)

Cizauskas, C.A., C.J. Carlson, **K.R. Burgio**, C.F. Clements, N.C. Harris, E.R. Dougherty, and A.J. Phillips. 2017. Parasite vulnerability to climate change: an evidence-based functional trait approach. *ROYAL SOCIETY OPEN SCIENCE*. 4: 160535. DOI: [10.1098/rsos.160535](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160535)

Brightsmith, D., **K.R. Burgio**, B.J. Hiller, *K.E. Block**, P. Pyle, and M.A. Patten. 2017. Yellow-chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*). *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE* (P. Rodewald ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/species/yecpar>

Brightsmith, D., **K.R. Burgio**, B.J. Hiller, *K.E. Block**, P. Pyle, and M.A. Patten. 2017. White-winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolorus*). *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE* (P. Rodewald ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/species/whwpar>

Lopez, B.E., **K.R. Burgio**, M.B. Carlucci, K.A. Palmquist, A. Parada, V. Weinberger, and A.H. Hurlbert. 2016. A new framework for inferring community assembly processes using phylogenetic information, relevant traits and environmental gradients. *ONE ECOSYSTEM*. 1: e9501. DOI: 10.3897/oneeco.1.e9501

Dougherty, E.R., C.J. Carlson, V.M. Bueno, **K.R. Burgio**, C.A. Cizauskas, C.F. Clements, D.P. Seidel, and N.C. Harris. 2015. Paradigms for parasite conservation. *CONSERVATION BIOLOGY*. 30: 724-733

- news coverage: [The Atlantic](#) and [Carbon Brief](#)
- [Altmetric Score: 50 \(top 5%\)](#)

Dreiss, L.M., **K.R. Burgio**, L.M. Cisneros, B.T. Klingbeil, B.D. Patterson, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. 2015. Multiple dimensions of biodiversity for rodents along an extensive tropical elevational gradient: taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic perspectives. *ECOGRAPHY*. 38: 876–888

Cisneros, L.M., **K.R. Burgio**, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, B.D. Patterson, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. 2014. Elevational variation of multiple dimensions of biodiversity in bats. *JOURNAL OF ANIMAL ECOLOGY*. 83: 1124–1136

Carlson, C.J., C.A. Cizauskas, **K.R. Burgio**, C.F. Clements, and N.C. Harris. 2013. The more parasites, the better? *SCIENCE*. 342:1041

Co-authored – in review or revision

Carlson, C.J., **K.R. Burgio**, T.A. Dallas, and A.L. Bond. spatExtinct: an R package for spatially-interpolated extinction date estimation from sighting data. *METHODS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION*. [Preprint available](#)

Kosman, E., **K.R. Burgio**, S.J. Presley, M.R. Willig, and S.M. Scheiner. Conservation prioritization based on trait-based metrics illustrated with global parrot distributions. *DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTIONS*.

Rubega, M.A., R. Wyss, A. Oeldof-Hirsch, **K.R. Burgio**, J.E. Joo. Breaking status boundaries to create collaborative learning opportunities in near-peer groups. *THE TEACHING PROFESSOR*.

Carlson, C.J., O.C. Mullerlein, A.J. Phillips, **K.R. Burgio**, G. Castaldo, C.A. Cizauskas, G. Cumming, T.A. Dallas, J. Dona, Z. Miao, H. Proctor, H.S. Yoon, and W.M. Getz. The Parasite Extinction Assessment Red List (PEARL): an extensible, open-source, online biodiversity database for neglected invertebrates. [Preprint available](#)

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Burgio, K.R. 2018. The mysterious and tragic story of America's only native parrot, now extinct for 100 years. *WASHINGTON POST* ([link](#)), *IFLSCIENCE* ([link](#)), *SALON* ([link](#)), *REAL CLEAR SCIENCE* ([link](#)), and *THE CONVERSATION* ([link](#)); > 75,000 reads.

PATENTS

Burgio, K.R. and M.A. Rubega. 2013. Monk Parakeet Utility Pole Exclusion Device. Provisional Patent # 61/842,608. USA. Filed: 7/3/2013.

RESEARCH GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Career Total: \$168,736

2018 (\$1100) American Ornithology Society Travel Award
2011 - 2016 (\$121,000) **National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow**
2016 (\$4671) Experiment crowdfunded project (co-PI w/G. Smith-Vidaurre)
2016 (\$750) UConn Doctoral Student Travel Award
2016 (\$125) American Ornithologists Union Travel Award
2016 (\$2000) UConn Dissertation Fellowship
2016 (\$840) UConn EEB Summer Support Grant
2015 (\$500) UConn EEB Summer Support Grant
2014 (\$2,850) UConn EEB Summer Support Grant
2013 (\$500) UConn EEB Summer Support Grant
2013 (\$17,000) UConn Faculty Large Grant (co-author, awarded to M. Rubega)
2013 (\$375) George Clark Jr. Connecticut Natural History Museum Award
2010 (\$150) Connecticut Natural History Museum Award
2010 (\$1500) Edwin V. Gant Memorial Scholarship, UConn
2009 (\$7500) **Barry Goldwater National Scholarship**
2009 (\$3500) Treibick Foundation Summer Research Fellowship
2009 (\$500) UConn Life Sciences Honors Thesis Research Grant
2009 (\$500) UConn Office of Undergraduate Research Grant
2009 (\$375) Katie Bu Memorial Grant
2009 (\$1800) UConn University Scholar Award
2007 (\$1000) UConn Greater Hartford Campus Scholarship
2007 (\$200) UConn Hartford Campus Alumni Scholarship

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 - 2017 **Researcher** - Parasite Ecology Research Project
- Founding member and facilitator of a multi-institution research collaboration investigating climate change on parasite biodiversity
- 2012 - 2016 **Visiting Faculty** - Fairfield University
- Responsible for training 6 undergraduate students in basic research skills, infrared thermography, stress physiology, and field methods in ornithology
- 2011 - 2016 **Project Facilitator** - NSF: Dimensions of Biodiversity
- manager of a international collaboration investigating how changes in diversity over an environmental gradient can be used to better understand community assembly processes
- 2010 **Field Research Supervisor** - National Audubon Society
- supervised field technicians in the collection of shrubland-nesting bird demographic, distribution, and behavioral data
- 2009 - 2012 **Volunteer Field Assistant** - University of Connecticut
- collected demographic and morphological data of saltmarsh birds through mist-netting and censuses
- 2009 - 2010 **Research Intern** - National Audubon Society
- created a breeding-bird survey map for New Haven County and reviewed and critiqued conservation management plans
- 2009 **Summer Research Fellow** - Treibeck Foundation: Monk Parakeet utility pole nesting behavior research
- collected and analyzed Monk Parakeet behavioral and distribution data
- 2008 **Field Assistant** - National Science Foundation (REU)
- collected invasive plant demographic and growth rate data for project exploring mutualisms between invasive plants and birds
- 2008 **Field Assistant** - Town of Mansfield, CT and Natural Resources Conservation Service
- designed and conducted avian censuses to test effect of invasive plant removal on forest bird populations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2017 Ornithology Laboratory – University of Connecticut
- 2016 Field Methods in Ornithology – University of Connecticut
- 2015 Field Methods in Ornithology – University of Connecticut

Teaching Assistant

- 2016 Biology of the Vertebrates – University of Connecticut
- 2015 Principles of Biology II – University of Connecticut
- 2015 Ornithology Laboratory – University of Connecticut
- 2015 Ornithology – University of Connecticut
- 2014 Biology of the Vertebrates – University of Connecticut
- 2011 Principles of Biology II – University of Connecticut
- 2010 Principles of Biology II – University of Connecticut

Other Teaching Experience

- 2012 - 2016 Undergraduate Independent Research Supervisor – Fairfield University
- 2015 Guest Lectures (2), Ornithology Laboratory – University of Connecticut
- 2015 Guest Lectures (2), Ornithology – University of Connecticut
- 2010 Guest Lecture, Topics in Modern Biology – University of Connecticut

MENTORING

Undergraduates

- 2017 - Jordana Gravely '21 – University of Connecticut. Independent research project: Feather coat insulation of House Sparrows.
- 2012 - 2015 Kali Block '15 - University of Connecticut. Independent research project: Testing Bergmann's, Groger's and Allen's Rule among Monk Parakeet populations
 - Recipient 2013 Sigma Xi GIAR (\$1000)
 - Co-authored 3 publications
- 2014 - 2016 Kerri McPhail '16 - Fairfield University. Research assistant: Testing the efficacy of infrared thermography in evaluating stress and metabolic heat loss in House Sparrows
- 2014 - 2016 Christian Cardillo '16 - Fairfield University. Research assistant: Testing the efficacy of infrared thermography in evaluating stress and metabolic heat loss in House Sparrows
- 2014 - 2016 Sabrae Boisvert '16 - Fairfield University. Research assistant: Testing the efficacy of infrared thermography in evaluating stress and metabolic heat loss in House Sparrows

2014 - 2016 Nicolette Tiernan '16 - Fairfield University. Research assistant: Testing the efficacy of infrared thermography in evaluating stress and metabolic heat loss in House Sparrows

2012 - 2013 Thomas Corona '13 - Fairfield University. Independent research project: Monk Parakeet utility pole nesting preferences

- Presented poster, "Determination of Monk Parakeet Nesting Site Preferences on Utility Poles in Southern Connecticut," at Fairfield University Sigma Xi Annual Poster Session April, 2013.

High School Students

2013 - 2015 Nikki Pirtel '15, Manchester High School. Independent research project: Using fungi and bacteria in the bioremediation of plastics

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars

2018 "Extinction in Two Acts: The Life and Death of the Carolina Parakeet"
Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey, USA

2018 "Non-traditional Paths to Graduate School"
Central Community College, Columbus, Nebraska, USA

2018 "Extinction in Two Acts: The Life and Death of the Carolina Parakeet"
Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, USA

International / National Conferences

Carlson, C.J., A.J. Phillips, T.A. Dallas, **K.R. Burgio**, and O.C. Muellerklein. 2017. Taking big data for a spin: the georeferenced U.S. National Parasite Collection and what it can do. **Ecological Society of America** Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

Kosman, E., **K.R. Burgio**, S.J. Presley, M.R. Willig, and S.M. Scheiner. 2017. Poster: Using functional diversity to set conservation priorities: a methodology and a case study of global parrot diversity. **International Biogeography Society** Annual Conference, Tuscon, AZ.

K.R. Burgio, K.E. Davis, L.M. Dreiss, L.M. Cisneros, B.T. Klingbeil, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. 2016. Integrating multiple dimensions of biodiversity and considerations of climate change for parrot conservation. **North American Ornithological Conference**, Washington, D.C.

- Cardillo, C., B. Walker, **K.R. Burgio**, and M.A. Rubega. 2016. Poster: Is A Hothead Stressed? A pilot assessment of thermal imaging as a tool for indexing glucocorticoids. **Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology** Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- Willig, M.R., **K.R. Burgio**, L.M. Cisneros, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, B.D. Patterson, and S.J. Presley. 2014. Gradients of Phylogenetic Relatedness and Size Similarity: Bats and Rodents in a Hotspot of Tropical Biodiversity (Manu, Peru). **American Society of Mammologists** Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Carlson, C.J., **K.R. Burgio**, and K.E. Block. 2013. Reconstructing the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet: Historical data reveal that two distinct human activities drove two separate subspecies' declines. **Ecological Society of America** Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- Willig, M.R., **K.R. Burgio**, L.M. Cisneros, L.M. Dreiss, B.T. Klingbeil, B.D. Patterson, and S.J. Presley. 2013. Comparative Biodiversity of Bats and Rodents along an Extensive Tropical Elevational Gradient: Taxonomic, Functional, and Phylogenetic Dimensions. **American Society of Mammologists** Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Lopez, B.E., **K.R. Burgio**, M.B. Carlucci, K.A. Palmquist, A. Parada, V. Weinberger, and A.H. Hurlbert. 2012. Inferring Community Assembly Processes under Niche Lability: Considering the Stress Dominance Hypothesis. **Ecological Society of America** Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- Klingbeil, B.T., **K.R. Burgio**, L.M. Cisneros, K.E. Davis, L.M. Dreiss, B.D. Patterson, S.J. Presley, and M.R. Willig. 2012. Elevational variation of multiple dimensions of biodiversity: inter-taxon comparisons. **Ecological Society of America** Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2018 "Extinction in Two Acts: The Life and Death of the Carolina Parakeet"
Linda Loring Foundation
- 2016 Consultant for National Geographic TV series "United States of Animals"
Season 1, Episode 11: "The West Sting"
- 2016 "Nesting behavior of Monk Parakeets on Utility Poles" American
Federation of Aviculture Annual Conference
- 2015 "The extinction of the Carolina Parakeet" New Haven Bird Club

- 2013 "The Carolina Parakeet: biology, extinction, and current research" The Parrot Club
- 2013 "Monk Parakeets" Western Connecticut Bird Club
- 2012 "The Distribution of Monk Parakeets in Connecticut" CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Avian Summit
- 2012 "Ecology: research, graduate school, and careers" Manchester High School, CT
- 2012 "Adaptations of Birds" Franklin Elementary School, Franklin, CT
- 2010 "Monk Parakeets in Connecticut: What Are They Doing Here?" New Haven Bird Club

OTHER AWARDS

- 2010 **University Scholar – University of Connecticut**
- 2010 Honors Scholar - University of Connecticut
- 2009 New England Scholar - University of Connecticut
- 2007 - 2008 Babbidge Scholar - University of Connecticut
- 2002 **Air Force Commendation Medal - United States Air Force**
- 2001 Distinguished Graduate - United States Air Force Leadership School
- 1999 Air Force Achievement Medal - United States Air Force
- 1997 Top Graduate - United States Air Force Technical Training School

RELATED TRAINING AND SKILLS

Computer programs: R, ArcGIS, MaxEnt, RSTAN, EstimateS, GEOLocate, Biota, and ResearchIR

Field training/experience: mist-netting and banding, survey techniques (point counts, territory mapping, and line transects), nest searching, behavioral observations, morphological measurements, blood sampling, vegetation sampling, Infrared Thermography (IRT) and automated recording units (ARUs)

Analyses: species distribution modeling, extinction modeling, species biodiversity metrics, linear mixed models, Bayesian modeling, and quantifying functional and phylogenetic biodiversity

REVIEWER

Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Global Ecology and Biogeography, Basic and Applied Ecology, Animal Conservation

NON-ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2011 - 2015 Commissioner - Town of Hamden Natural Resource and Open Space Commission
- 2008 Writing Tutor - University of Connecticut
- 2000 - 2002 Head Instructor - Dental Assistant Training Program - American Red Cross
- 1996 – 2002 Staff Sergeant - United States Air Force
- Manager of Aerospace Dentistry - duties include: dental assistant, radiology technician, and dental hygienist
 - combat medic specializing in chemical, nuclear, and biological decontamination

REFERENCES

Dr. Margaret A. Rubega, Professor
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - University of Connecticut
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Dr. Michael R. Willig, Professor
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - University of Connecticut
(860) 486-2798
michael.willig@uconn.edu

Dr. Robert K. Colwell, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology - University of Connecticut
(860) 428-5633
robertkcolwell@gmail.com