

Shailee Shah

shailee.shah@columbia.edu | +1 607-279-1902 | www.shailee-shah.com

Education

- 2016- | **Columbia University**, New York, NY
Ph.D. Candidate, in the Department of **Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology (E3B)**, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences | Dean's Fellowship
Research Advisor: **Dr. Dustin Rubenstein**
- 2010-2014 | **Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY
B.A. in **Biological Sciences** (*cum laude*) and minor in **English Literature**, College of Arts & Sciences | Dean's List, Tata Scholarship

Research Grants

- 2019 | **Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$1,000)**
Sigma Xi Society
- 2019 | **Van Tyne Research Award (\$2,500)**
American Ornithological Society
- 2019 | **Chapman Grant (\$3,000)**
American Museum of Natural History
- 2019 | **Educational Outreach Grant (\$895)**
Animal Behavior Society (with S. Siller)
- 2019 | **Small Grant for Outreach (\$500)**
Society for the Study of Evolution (with S. Siller)
- 2017 | **Preliminary Research Grant (\$3,000)**
Department of Ecology, Evolution & Environmental Biology, Columbia University
- 2013 | **Savoca and Orrock Research Grant (\$1,000)**
Research and filming of student research in Darwin, Australia
- 2012 | **Rupert-Foote Fund Grant (\$1,000)**
Communications internship at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY
- 2012, 2013 | **Redheads Fund Grant (all housing and research costs)**
Fieldwork at Shoals Marine Lab

Awards and Fellowships

2019	Travel Award (\$500) Animal Behavior Society. Annual Conference in Chicago, IL
2019	Travel Award (\$680) American Ornithological Society. Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK
2017	Travel Award (\$400) American Ornithological Society. Annual Meeting in East Lansing, MI
2016-2021	Dean's Fellowship (5 years tuition and stipend) Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
2012	Bartels Merit Scholarship Award (\$2,500) Coursework at Shoals Marine Lab, ME
2011	Bartels Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Myra Shulman (\$2,500) Ecology and the Marine Environment class at Shoals Marine Lab, ME
2010-2014	Tata Scholarship (4 years tuition and living expenses) Cornell University and the Tata Education and Development Trust

Scientific Publications

In prep	Shah, S.S. & D. R. Rubenstein. <i>Alternative Male Reproductive Tactics in a Plural Cooperative Breeding Bird.</i>
In prep	Shah, S.S. , Greig, E. I. & M. S. Webster. <i>Form follows function: the effect of function on signal evolution in the genus Malurus.</i>
2015	Shah, S. S. , MacLean, S. A., Greig, E. I. & D. N. Bonter. Risk-based alarm calling in a non-passerine bird. <i>Animal Behaviour</i> , 106: 129-136.
2014	Bonter, D. N., MacLean, S. A., Shah, S. S. , & M.C. Moglia, Storm-induced shifts in optimal nesting sites: a potential effect of climate change. <i>Journal of Ornithology</i> , 1-8

Presentations at Scientific Meetings

2019	Shah, S.S. , Rubenstein, D.R. <i>Alternative Male Reproductive Tactics in a Plural Cooperative Breeding Bird.</i> Animal Behavior Society meeting, Chicago, IL. Poster.
------	--

- 2019 **Shah, S.S.**, Rubenstein, D.R. *Alternative Male Reproductive Tactics in a Plural Cooperative Breeding Bird*. American Ornithological Society meeting, Anchorage, AK. Poster.
- 2017 **Shah, S.S.**, Greig, E.I., & M.S. Webster. *Form follows function: the effect of function on signal evolution in the genus Malurus*. American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists meeting, East Lansing, MI. Poster.
- 2014 **Shah, S.S.**, Greig, E.I., MacLean, S.A., & Bonter, D.N. *Risk-based alarm calling in a non-passerine*. American Ornithologists Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists meeting, Estes Park, CO. Presentation.
- 2013 **Shah, S.S.**, Greig, E.I., MacLean, S.A., & Bonter, D.N. *Herring gulls encode urgency in their alarm calls*. Wilson Ornithological Society meeting, College of William & Mary, VA. Poster.

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2020 **Guest lecturer.** *Superb starlings*. “Global Avian Diversity” course. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University, NY.
- 2019 **Panelist.** Frontiers in Ornithology symposium. Delaware Ornithological Society, DE.
- 2019 **Invited speaker.** *Understanding the bizarre social lives of superb starlings*. Ornithology Seminar. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University, NY.
- 2018 **Guest lecturer.** *Cooperation and Conflict in Superb Starlings (and other birds)*. “Ornithology” course. E3B Department, Columbia University, NY.
- 2015 **Invited speaker.** Celebrate Urban Birds workshop. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY.
- 2014 **Guest lecturer.** *Risk-based alarm calling in Herring Gulls*. “Field Methods in Bird Banding” course. Cornell University, NY
- 2013 **Invited speaker.** *Gulls and other Island Adventures*. Young Birders Event. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY.
- 2013 **Guest lecturer.** *Vocal Communication in Birds*. “Field Ornithology” course. Shoals Marine Lab, ME.

Research Experience

- 2016- **Ph.D. Research**
Field work: Studying superb starlings in Kenya at Mpala Research Centre and in other parts of rural Kenya. Trapping birds, collecting blood, hormone, and feather samples, behavioral observations. Managing and working alongside field assistants and coordinating permits, logistics, housing, and travel on a budget.
Lab work: Extracting DNA, preparing ddRAD library for genetic sequencing, bioinformatics for filtering and aligning reads
Analyses: Database management, mixed effect modelling, models of **genetic** structure and gene flow
- 2014 **Field assistant** to Andy Johnson (Cornell University) in Churchill, Canada
Trapping whimbrel, nest-finding, filming research in the field
- 2015 **Field assistant** to Sahas Barve and Dr. André Dhondt (Cornell University) in India
Mist-netting, point-counts, measurements, collecting blood samples from birds
- 2012-2014 **Undergraduate Thesis Research**
Field work: Audio recording and playback experiments with herring gulls at Shoals Marine Lab, ME. Filming research in the field.
Analyses: Acoustic analysis using Raven Pro and Luscinia
- 2012-2014 **Independent Research Project**
Field work: Audio recording and playback experiments with red-backed fairywrens in Darwin, Australia. Filming research in the field.
Analyses: Evolution modelling, Acoustic analysis using Raven Pro and Luscinia
- 2012 **Research Intern in Field Science.** Shoals Marine Lab, ME
Monitoring nests for long-term study on herring and black-backed gulls. Banding adults and chicks.
- 2011 **Research assistant** for Dr. Emma Greig (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
Analyzing fairy-wren vocalizations using Raven Pro and Luscinia

Mentorship Experience

- 2019-2020 Arden Berlinger. **Undergraduate Thesis.** *Direct Benefits of Helping Behavior in a Cooperatively Breeding Bird, the Superb Starling (Lamprotornis superbus).* E3B Department, Columbia University, NY
- 2019 Paul Kiplangat. **Field Assistant.** Mpala Research Centre, Kenya.

Taught bird identification by sound, mist-netting, trapping, handling live birds, reading color bands, data entry.

Teaching Experience and Training

- 2020 **Workshop Participant.** “Connect, Share, Learn: Enhancing the E3B TA Experience”. E3B Department. Columbia University, NY.
- 2020 **Workshop Participant.** “Introduction to Research Mentorship (For Graduate Students)”. Centre of Teaching and Learning. Columbia University, NY.
- 2019 **Teaching Assistant** for “Biology of African Animals and Ecosystems”. Mpala Research Centre, Kenya. Instructor: Dr. Dustin Rubenstein.
Assisted with teaching and field logistics, supervised projects, wrote and graded exams
- 2018 **Teaching Assistant** for “Ornithology”. Columbia University, NY. Instructors: Dr. Susan Elbin and Dr. Felicity Arengo.
Led field trips, facilitated class, and lectured on cooperative breeding behavior
- 2017 **Teaching Assistant** for “Environmental Biology I”. Columbia University, NY. Instructors: Dr. Shahid Naeem and Dr. Danielle Tufts
Led weekly discussion sections and monthly review sessions, lectured on the nervous system, wrote exam questions and graded exams
- 2017 **Teaching Assistant** for “Biology of African Animals and Ecosystems”. Mpala Research Centre, Kenya. Instructor: Dr. Dustin Rubenstein.
Assisted with teaching and field logistics, supervised projects, and graded exams
- 2014 **Teaching Assistant** for “Field Methods in Bird Banding”. Cornell University, NY. Instructor: Dr. David Bonter.
Demonstrated and supervised banding of birds caught using mist-nets and cage traps

Work Experience

- 2015-2016 **Communications Specialist.** Bird Cams. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY
Managing social media and volunteer base for live streaming cameras on feeders and nests
- 2015 **Multimedia assistant.** Cornell Alliance for Science. Cornell University, NY
Assisting with multimedia production, monthly newsletter, and fellowship program

- 2014 | **Assistant Editor.** Conservation Media. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY
Reviewing and annotating footage, editing, and sound for “Bird of Prey” documentary
- 2013-2014 | **Photography Editor.** *Cornell Daily Sun.* Ithaca, NY
Managed a team of photographers for a student-run, daily newspaper (ranked #1 nationally)
- 2011-2013 | **Staff Photographer,** *Cornell Daily Sun,* Ithaca, NY
Completed weekly assignments for a student-run, daily newspaper (ranked #1 nationally)

Popular Science Publications, Media, and Events

- In prep | *Why cooperate?.* **Children’s book** on cooperation in superb starlings. Co-author: S. Siller.
- 2020 | Panelist. “ExoLore” **live event** hosted by Moiya McTier at Caveat, New York City.
- 2019 | *A Day in the Life of a Field Researcher.* **Video** on All About Birds featuring my PhD work
- 2018 | *What’s up? Birds!.* **Livestream panel discussion** on Mpala Live! and Explore.org
- 2016 | *A Noble Vision of Gulls.* **Article** in *Living Bird* magazine. Co-author: Dr. David Bonter.
- 2014 | *Studying Red-backed Fairywrens in Australia.* **Video** on CornellCast (Cornell University) and All About Birds (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Peer-Review Contributions

- 2016- | **Journal peer reviewer.** *Animal Behaviour* (4), *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* (1), *PLOS One* (1)

Service and Outreach

- 2020- | **Ph.D. student representative.** E3B Department, Columbia University, NY.
Represent Ph.D. student concerns to Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies and faculty, work on initiatives to promote Ph.D. student well-being in the department
- 2019-2020 | **Mentor.** Read Ahead (non-profit organization). New York, NY
Volunteer reading mentor for an elementary school student

- 2018-2020 **Event Coordinator.** 500 Women Scientists (non-profit organization), NYC Pod
Plan, organize, and execute local events that promote diversity and inclusion in science.
- 2017- **Committee Member.** Diversity and Inclusion Committee, American Ornithological Society
Co-leader of “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Ornithology” workshop at NAOC 2020, co-organizer for other initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion in ornithology and birding communities
- 2017- **Co-chair.** Student Affairs Committee, American Ornithological Society
Lead organizer of the Student-Mentor Lunch (2019, 2020) and “Writing Successful Small Grants” Workshop (2019); co-organizer for other student activities and workshops
- 2016-2019 **Workshop Leader.** Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs, Laikipia, Kenya
Designed and led a game for learning about cooperative behavior in animals, led bird identification workshops
- 2016 **Workshop Leader.** Girls’ Science Day, Columbia University, NY
Co-led workshop on predator-prey interactions for middle grade girls
- 2015 **Speaker.** Celebrate Urban Birds workshop, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY
Talked to young adults from inner city areas about college, careers and ornithology
- 2014 **Workshop Leader.** Expanding Your Horizons Conference, Cornell University, NY
Co-led the “Afternoon at the Museum” workshop for 9th grade girls
- 2013, 2014 **Volunteer.** Migration Celebration, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, NY
Taught children bird anatomy and bird banding
- 2013-2014 **Student Advisor.** Office of Undergraduate Biology, Cornell University, NY
Mentored underclassmen and prospective students in the Biology department through regular office hours and special programming
- 2011 **Orientation Leader.** Cornell University, NY
Lead activities for freshmen and providing advice and support throughout the year