

# Montague H. C. Neate-Clegg, PhD

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## Research Positions

- **Postdoctoral Scholar - University of California, Los Angeles** 2021–present  
Morgan Tingley Lab, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

## Education

- **PhD in Biology - Cagan Sekercioglu Lab, The University of Utah** 2016–2021  
Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology Program, School of Biological Sciences  
Dissertation - *The Impacts of Climate Change on Tropical Montane Birds*
- **MSc in Ecology, Evolution & Conservation - Imperial College London** 2013–2014  
Thesis - *Edge Effects in the Avifaunal Community of Riparian Rain-forest Tracts in Tropical North Queensland*
- **BA in Biological Sciences - University of Oxford, Magdalen College** 2010–2013  
Dissertation - *An Investigation into the Weight of Manx Shearwater Fledglings on Skomer Island: Comparisons over Time and Space* **First Class**

Citations: 674; h-index: 10

## Peer-reviewed Publications

22. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, M. A. Etterson, M. W. Tingley, & W. D. Newmark. (2023) The combined effects of temperature and fragment area on the demographic rates of an Afrotropical bird community over 34 years. *Biological Conservation*: 282:110051
21. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, B. A. Tonelli, C. Youngflesh, J. X. Wu, G. A. Montgomery, C. H. Sekercioglu, and M. W. Tingley. (2023) Traits shaping urban tolerance in birds differ around the world. *Current Biology* 33(9):1677-1688
20. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg** & M. W. Tingley. (2023) Building a mechanistic understanding of climate-driven elevational shifts in birds. *PLOS Climate* 2(3):e0000174
19. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg** & M. W. Tingley. (2022) Adult male birds advance spring migratory phenology faster than females and juveniles across North America. *Global Change Biology* 29(2):341-354
18. J. A. Tobias, C. Sheard, A. L. Pigot, A. J. Devenish, J. Yang, F. Sayol, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, plus 108 authors. (2022) AVONET: morphological, ecological and geographical data for all birds. *Ecology Letters* 25(3):581-597
17. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, J. J. Horns, M. Buchert, T. Pope, R. Norvell, J. R. Parrish, F. Howe, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2022) The effects of climate change and fluctuations on the riparian bird communities of the arid Intermountain West. *Animal Conservation* 25(3):325-341
16. E. R. Buechley, M. Girardello, A. Santangeli, A. D. Ruffo, G. Ayalew, Y. Abebe, D. Barber, R. Buij, K. Bildstein, B. A. Mahamued, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, D. Ogada, P. P. Marra, T. S. Sillet, J.-M. Thiollay, M. Wikelski, P. Yaworsky, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Priority areas for vulture conservation in the Horn of Africa largely fall outside the protected area network. *Bird Conservation International* 31(3):1-18
15. K. Kittelberger, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, J. D. Blount, M. R. C. Posa, J. McLaughlin, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Ecological correlates of extinction risk in resident Philippine avifauna. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9:664764
14. J. D. Blount, J. J. Horns, K. Kittelberger, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Avian use of agricultural areas as migration stopover sites: A review of crop management practices and ecological correlates. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9:650641

13. K. Kittelberger, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, E. R. Buechley, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Community characteristics of forest understory birds along an elevational gradient in the Horn of Africa: A multi-year baseline. *Ornithological Applications* 123(2):1-20
12. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, S. E. I. Jones, J. A. Tobias, W. D. Newmark, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Ecological correlates of elevational range shifts in tropical birds. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9:621749
11. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, J. D. Blount, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2021) Ecological and biogeographical predictors of taxonomic discord across the world's birds. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 30(6):1258-1270
10. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, S. Stuart, D. Mtui, C. H. Sekercioglu, & W. D. Newmark. (2021) Afrotropical montane birds experience upslope shifts and range contractions along a fragmented elevational gradient in response to global warming. *PLOS ONE* 16(3):e0248712
9. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, T. R. Stanley, C. H. Sekercioglu, & W. D. Newmark. (2021) Temperature-associated decreases in demographic rates of Afrotropical bird species over 30 years. *Global Change Biology* 27(10):2254-2268
8. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, T. G. O'Brien, F. Mulindahabi, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2020) A disconnect between upslope shifts and climate change in an Afrotropical bird community. *Conservation Science and Practice* 2(11):e291
7. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg\***, J. J. Horns\*, F. R. Adler, M. C. Kemahli Aytakin, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2020) Monitoring the world's bird populations with community science data. *Biological Conservation* 248:108653 \*co-first author
6. C. Sheard, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, N. Alioravainen, S. E. I. Jones, C. Vincent, H. E. A. MacGregor, T. P. Bregman, S. Claramunt, & J. A. Tobias. (2020) Ecological drivers of global gradients in avian dispersal inferred from wing morphology. *Nature Communications* 11:2463
5. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg** & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2020) Agricultural land in the Amazon basin supports low bird diversity and is a poor replacement for primary forest. *The Condor* 122:1-11
4. E. R. Buechley, A. Santangeli, M. Girardello, **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, C. J. W. McClure, D. Oleyar, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2019) Global raptor research and conservation priorities: tropical raptors fall prey to knowledge gaps. *Diversity & Distributions* 25(6):856-869
3. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, J. Ramirez Roman, B. Demir, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2019) Endangered Basra Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) recorded for the first time in Turkey (Aves: Acrocephalidae). *Turkish Journal of Zoology* 43(2):250-253
2. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, S. E. I. Jones, O. Burdekin, M. Jocque, & C. H. Sekercioglu. (2018) Elevational changes in the avian community of a Mesoamerican cloud forest park. *Biotropica* 50(5):805-815
1. **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**, E. C. Morshuis, & C. Banks-Leite. (2016) Edge effects in the avifaunal community of riparian rain-forest tracts in Tropical North Queensland. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 32(4):280-289

## Other Published Articles

- **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**. (2022) Book Review: *Effects of Climate Change on Birds*, 2nd edition, by Peter O. Dunn and Anders Pape Moller, Editors. 2019. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. *Ornithology* 139:1-2
- **M. H. C. Neate-Clegg**. (2020) UNews article: *How do U start birding?* [attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/how-do-u-start-birding](http://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/how-do-u-start-birding)

## Previous Research Experience

- **Macroecology Research Assistant** - Biodiversity Group, University of Oxford 2014–2015  
Collecting and formatting biometric and foraging strategy data for the world's birds

- **Operation Wallacea Expedition Ornithologist** - Cusuco National Park, Honduras 2015

## Skills

- Highly proficient in **statistics** and **R**, particularly **mark-recapture analysis**, **Bayesian hierarchical modelling**, **multi-model inference**, and **GLMM**
- **Bird surveying**: extensive point counts across three continents, BTO Breeding Bird Surveys, raptor road counts in Ethiopia, etc.
- **Bird banding**: >2000 birds processed of 170 spp from three continents, USGS bird banding sub-permittee 2016-2021
- **Morphometric measuring**: >3000 museum bird specimens (bill dimensions, wing chord, tail, tarsus), hundreds of birds in the field
- **Transmitter deployment**: light-based geolocator devices on Yellow-breasted Chats
- Skilled **presenter** after dozens of talks/lectures given to scientists, students, children & the incarcerated
- **PADI Advanced Open Water Diver** - Utila, Honduras

## Fieldwork

- **Los Angeles** - twice-weekly bird banding during spring migration at Bear Divide 2023
- **Utah** - weekly bird banding from spring to fall in Red Butte Canyon Research Natural Area 2016-2021
- **Usambara Mountains, Tanzania** - nine weeks of bird banding across an elevational gradient 2019
- **Ethiopia** - two weeks of raptor road surveys 2017
- **Eastern Turkey** - four weeks of bird banding, two weeks of point counts in important wetlands 2017
- **Cusuco National Park, Honduras** - five weeks of point counts in cloud forest for Operation Wallacea 2015
- **Daintree National Park, Australia** - ten weeks of point counts in rain forest for MSc thesis 2014
- **Skomer Island, Wales** - five weeks catching & weighing Manx Shearwaters for BA dissertation 2012
- **Honduras** - two weeks wildlife survey methods training in Cusuco National Park, two weeks SCUBA training on Utila 2011

## Grants, Awards & Fellowships

- American Ornithological Society Travel Award - \$650 2022
- George R. Riser Outstanding Graduate Research Award - \$500 2021
- George R. Riser Research Award - \$5130 2020
- Phyllis Coley & Thomas Kursar Graduate Field Research Award - \$2000 2020
- University of Utah Graduate Research Fellowship - \$18,700 + tuition 2019
- Great Salt Lake Audubon Society Award - \$1000 2019
- Global Change & Sustainability Center Research Award - \$3000 2019
- Riser Travel Award (UU) - \$534 2019
- American Ornithological Society Travel Award - \$400 2019
- Graduate Student Travel Assistance Award (UU) - \$400 2019
- SBS Conference Award (UU) - \$400 2019
- SBS Conference Award (UU) - \$400 2018
- Riser Travel Award (UU) - \$800 2017

## Academic Presentations

- *The combined phenological, latitudinal, and elevational responses of North American birds to climate change* - Species on the Move 2023 May 2023
- *Are birds of certain ages or sexes shifting their migratory phenology faster than others?* - Western Bird Banding Association May 2023
- *Are birds of certain ages or sexes shifting their migratory phenology faster than others?* - American Ornithological Society Conference Jun 2022
- *The effects of climate variation on riparian birds in the arid West* - American Ornithological Society Conference Jun 2022
- *The Impacts of Climate Change on Tropical Montane Birds* - thesis defense seminar, University of Utah Apr 2021
- *Whats in a name: Ecological Predictors of Taxonomic Discord across the Worlds Birds* - department graduate seminar, University of Utah Dec 2020
- *A disconnect between upslope shifts and climate change* - North American Ornithological Conference 2020 Aug 2020

- *The effects of climate on Utahs riparian birds* - North American Ornithological Conference 2020 Aug 2020
- *Utah's riparian birds in a drying climate* - department graduate seminar, University of Utah Feb 2020
- *Climate warming reduces population growth and recruitment rates over 30 years in an Afrotropical bird community* - American Ornithological Society Conference 2019 Jun 2019
- *Feeling the heat: bird population responses to climate change* - department graduate seminar, University of Utah Feb 2019
- *Upslope shifts in the avian community of a Mesoamerican cloud forest park* - International Ornithological Congress 2018 Aug 2018
- *Upslope shifts in the avian community of a Mesoamerican cloud forest park* - American Ornithological Society Conference 2018 Apr 2018
- *Climate Change and the Survival of Tropical Montane Birds* - EEOB graduate program seminar, University of Utah Dec 2017
- *Long-term Monitoring in the Tropics: Problems and Solutions* - EEOB graduate program seminar, University of Utah Apr 2017

## Posters

- *The combined effects of temperature and fragmentation on the demographic rates of Afrotropical birds* - American Ornithological Society Conference 2022 Jun 2022
- *Upslope shifts in an Afrotropical bird community: a 39-year resurvey* - North American Ornithological Conference 2020 Aug 2020
- *Upslope shifts in an Afrotropical bird community: a 39-year resurvey* - School of Biological Science Retreat Aug 2020
- *Upslope shifts in an Afrotropical bird community: a 39-year resurvey* - Global Change & Sustainability Symposium, University of Utah Feb 2020
- *Connecting Science, Conservation, and Community Engagement Through Long-term Bird Banding in Red Butte Canyon* - Red Butte Creek Research Symposium Dec 2018
- *Upslope shifts in the avian community of a Mesoamerican cloud forest park* - ePoster, International Ornithological Congress 2018 Apr 2018

## Outreach and Service

### Talks:

- *Birds 101* - Los Angeles County Library Oct 2022
- *Responses of migratory birds to climate change in North America* - Los Angeles Birders Aug 2022
- *Climate Change and Birds* - Salt Lake Community Center Pre-Freshman Engineering Program Jul 2021
- *Climate Change and Tropical Montane Birds* - Great Salt Lake Audubon Society Birds 'n' Bites Mar 2019
- *Conserving Tropical Bird Diversity* - INSPIRE lecture at Salt Lake County Jail Jun 2018
- *Conserving Tropical Bird Diversity* - INSPIRE lecture at Draper Prison Jun 2018
- *Conserving Bird Diversity* - Salt Lake Center for Science Education class Sep 2017
- *Conserving Bird Diversity* - Living Planet Aquarium Summer Camp Jul 2017

**SOTM 2023 Conference:** session moderator and Student Presentation Award judge May 2023

**AOS 2022 Conference:** session moderator and Student Presentation Award judge Jun 2022

**EEB 250:** served on postdoc panel Jan 2022

**SBS Diversity Fellows Program:** served on "Life as a PhD Student" panel Nov 2020

**Project Youth:** bird banding demonstrations to sixth graders Apr 2019

**ACCESS Program:** bird banding demonstrations to female undergraduates in STEM Jun 2018

**Red Butte Canyon Bird Banding:** many groups (including summer campers, middle school 2016–2021 students, undergraduate students and Tracy Aviary staff) visit the station each year to learn about bird banding and its importance for conservation

## Teaching experience

- **EEB 250, UCLA** - Guest class on online presence for academics Feb 2023
- **Conservation Biology, UofU** - Guest lecture on tropical bird conservation 2023, 2021, 2018
- **Ornithology, UofU** - Guest lecture on tropical bird conservation 2022, 2019, 2017
- **Biology in the 21st Century, UofU** - Two guest lectures a semester on conservation biology 2019–2021 including an interactive group activity based around conservation prioritisation

- **JRS Biodiversity Foundation Montane Forest Pollinator Project workshop** Fall 2018  
Two lectures on estimating range shifts and demographic rates - College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Tanzania
- **Teaching Assistant** - Conservation Biology Lab Spring 2021
- **Teaching Assistant** - Plant Systematics Fall 2020
- **Teaching Assistant** - Evolution and Diversity of Life Spring 2019
- **Teaching Assistant** - Ornithology Spring 2019
- **Teaching Assistant** - Principles of Ecology and Evolution Spring 2018
- **Teaching Assistant** - Conservation Biology Spring 2018

## Students mentored

- **Kyle Kittelberger**, as a prospective graduate student 2019–2020  
Project: Changes in an Ethiopian bird community  
Kyle then joined the lab as a graduate student in 2020. I am a co-author on two of his papers and I continue to collaborate and provide advice.
- **David Blount**, as a prospective graduate student 2019–2020  
Project: Age, sex and the phenology of migrant birds  
David then joined the lab as a graduate student in 2020. I am a co-author on one of his papers and he a co-author on one of mine.
- **Nikolas Orton**, as an undergraduate 2020  
Project: The effect of precipitation on the abundance of riparian birds in the Colorado Plateau  
Nikolas then joined the lab as a graduate student in 2022.
- **Jennifer Bridgeman**, undergraduate 2018–2021  
Project: Bird banding in Red Butte Canyon, Utah  
Jennifer was my principal field tech at the bird banding station for a couple years. She is now a successful field biologist at HawkWatch International
- **John Jackson**, undergraduate 2019–2021  
Project: Temporal changes in the bird community of Red Butte Canyon, Utah
- **Sara Wiscombe**, undergraduate 2018  
Project: Ethiopian bird watching trip reports

**Red Butte bird banding field assistants supervised:** Nikolas Orton, Kyle Kittelberger, David Blount, John Jackson, Sam Raber, Hattie Ransom, Sara Wiscombe

**Data entry research assistants supervised:** Melissa Avalos, Alex Bennett, David Blount, Grant Doxey, Cara Drane, Shantell Garrett, Kayla Godfrey, Russelle Hansen, John Jackson, Maddie Nelson, Natasha Velasquez, Rory Weeks, Ashley Wiltsie, Sara Wiscombe

## Student Committee Positions

- Graduate Admissions Committee** - School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah 2020
- R Club Coordinator and Instructor** - School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah 2018–2019
- Entertainment Committee** - School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah 2016–2017, 2018–2019
- Video/Audio Team** - ensured the smooth running of the Oxford Biosymposium Jan 2015
- Entertainment Committee** - Silwood Park Campus 2013–2014
- Junior Common Room Committee** - Magdalen College, Oxford 2010–2011
- Entertainment Committee** - Magdalen College, Oxford 2010–2011

## Pre-publication Peer-reviews

**78 reviews for 42 journals**

- *Biodiversity and Conservation* Feb 2021
- *Biological Conservation* Oct 2020
- *BioScience* Oct 2017
- *Biotropica* Aug 2021, Feb 2021
- *Conservation Biology* Jun 2022, Sep 2017
- *Current Biology* May 2023, Feb 2023
- *Current Zoology* Jul 2022
- *Diversity* Jun 2022, May 2022
- *Diversity and Distributions* Jan 2022, Nov 2021, Jun 2019
- *Ecological Applications* May 2023
- *Ecological Informatics* Dec 2020

• <i>Ecological Monographs</i>		Mar 2021
• <i>Ecology and Evolution</i>	Sep 2021, Jun 2021, Jun 2020,	Nov 2017
• <i>Ecology Letters</i>		Dec 2022
• <i>Ecography</i>	Feb 2023, Mar 2022,	Apr 2021
• <i>Ecosphere</i>		Dec 2021
• <i>Evolutionary Ecology</i>		Dec 2019
• <i>Forest Ecology and Management</i>		Oct 2022, Apr 2021
• <i>Frontiers in Ecology and Environment</i>		Mar 2019, Apr 2018
• <i>Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution</i>	May 2023, Apr 2023, May 2021,	Feb 2021, Jan 2021
• <i>Frontiers of Biogeography</i>		Mar 2020
• <i>Functional Ecology</i>		Oct 2020
• <i>Global Change Biology</i>		May 2018, Feb 2018
• <i>Global Ecology and Biogeography</i>	Apr 2023, Mar 2023, Mar 2023,	Dec 2022, Mar 2022, Jun 2019
• <i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i>		Aug 2022, Jul 2021, Jan 2021
• <i>Ibis</i>		Aug 2022, Nov 2017
• <i>Journal of Field Ornithology</i>		Nov 2022
• <i>Journal of Ornithology</i>		Jan 2022
• <i>Journal of Raptor Research</i>		Dec 2020
• <i>Nature Ecology and Evolution</i>		Jun 2022
• <i>Oecologia</i>		Dec 2022
• <i>One Earth</i>		Apr 2023
• <i>Ornithological Applications</i>		Jan 2022
• <i>PeerJ</i>		Jun 2023, Dec 2021, Apr 2019
• <i>PLOS ONE</i>	Aug 2021, Jun 2021, May 2021,	Jan 2021
• <i>PNAS</i>		Dec 2020, Feb 2019
• <i>Proceedings of the Royal Society B</i>	Jun 2023, Feb 2023, Jan 2023,	Dec 2022, Nov 2022, Jul 2022
• <i>Restoration Ecology</i>		Feb 2018
• <i>Scientific Data</i>		May 2022
• <i>Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment</i>		Jan 2021
• <i>Tropical Conservation Science</i>		Dec 2020
• <i>Turkish Journal of Zoology</i>		Jan 2019

## Press Releases and Media Coverage

### Urban birds

- The Revelator: [therevelator.org/urban-birds](http://therevelator.org/urban-birds)
- The STEM Post: [www.thestempost.com/transforming-birds-before-our-eyes](http://www.thestempost.com/transforming-birds-before-our-eyes)
- Daily Bruin: [dailybruin.com/2023/05/24/ucla-study-identifies-traits-shared-by-birds-in-urban-environments](http://dailybruin.com/2023/05/24/ucla-study-identifies-traits-shared-by-birds-in-urban-environments)
- Current Biology: [cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(23\)00329-9](http://cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(23)00329-9)
- earth.com: [earth.com/news/which-traits-help-birds-thrive-in-urban-areas](http://earth.com/news/which-traits-help-birds-thrive-in-urban-areas)
- UCLA Newsroom: [newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/characteristics-birds-urban-environment](http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/characteristics-birds-urban-environment)

### Tanzanian birds and climate change

- UCLA Newsroom: [newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/climate-change-habitat-loss-east-african-birds](http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/climate-change-habitat-loss-east-african-birds)
- UNews: [attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/tanzania-birds/](http://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/tanzania-birds/)

### Migratory phenology

- National Audubon Society: [www.audubon.org/news/migrating-male-birds-race-ahead-keep-springs-early-arrival](http://www.audubon.org/news/migrating-male-birds-race-ahead-keep-springs-early-arrival)

### Riparian birds

- The Wildlife Society: [wildlife.org/birds-congregate-in-riparian-areas-in-dry-years/](http://wildlife.org/birds-congregate-in-riparian-areas-in-dry-years/)
- Earth.com: [earth.com/news/rivers-in-the-american-west-are-a-lifesaving-resource-for-birds/](http://earth.com/news/rivers-in-the-american-west-are-a-lifesaving-resource-for-birds/)
- Fox13 SLC: [fox13now.com/news/local-news/new-utah-study-shows-how-dry-years-disrupts-bird-populations](http://fox13now.com/news/local-news/new-utah-study-shows-how-dry-years-disrupts-bird-populations)
- UNews: [attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/in-dry-years-rivers-become-birds-crowded-corridors/](http://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/in-dry-years-rivers-become-birds-crowded-corridors/)

### Taxonomic discord

- UNews: [attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/taxonomic-discord/](http://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/taxonomic-discord/)

### Global eBird analysis

- The Wildlife Society: [wildlife.org/community-science-not-yet-enough-for-global-bird-counts](http://wildlife.org/community-science-not-yet-enough-for-global-bird-counts)
- UNews: [attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/ebird-global-trends/](http://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/ebird-global-trends/)

**Honduran birds and climate change:**

- National Audubon Society: [www.audubon.org/news/mountain-birds-need-move-even-higher-survive](http://www.audubon.org/news/mountain-birds-need-move-even-higher-survive)
- Operation Wallacea infographic: [www.opwall.com/article/science-snacks-climate-change-the-bird-community-of-cusuco-national-park-honduras](http://www.opwall.com/article/science-snacks-climate-change-the-bird-community-of-cusuco-national-park-honduras)
- UNews: [unews.utah.edu/cloud-forests](http://unews.utah.edu/cloud-forests)
- The University Network: [www.tun.com/blog/climate-change-bird-species](http://www.tun.com/blog/climate-change-bird-species)

**Raptor research priorities:**

- UNews: [unews.utah.edu/speaking-up-for-invisible-raptors](http://unews.utah.edu/speaking-up-for-invisible-raptors)