

# ARJUN BRANDRETH POTTER

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

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**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ  
PhD Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 2015 – Present

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY  
B.S. Natural Resources *cum laude* with Distinction in Research (GPA: 3.61) 2012  
Thesis title: *Conservation Biology of the White-naped Tit (Parus nuchalis) in Gujarat, India*

**College of the Atlantic**, Bar Harbor, Maine 2008 - 2009

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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Centennial Fellowship, *Princeton University* 2015  
Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Indonesia, *U.S. Dept. of State.* 2012 - 2013  
Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award (for Bahasa Indonesia) *U.S. Dept. of State.* 2012  
Redheads Undergraduate Research Fund, *Cornell Lab of Ornithology*, Ithaca, NY. 2011  
Dextra Undergraduate Research Fund, *CALS*, Ithaca, NY. 2011  
The Watershed Fund Scholarship, *The Watershed Fund*, New Haven, CT 2008 - 2011  
Explorer's Club Research Grant, *Explorers' Club*, New York, NY. 2008  
Presidential Scholarship Award, *College of the Atlantic*, Bar Harbor, ME. 2008  
Menunkatuck Award, *Menunkatuck Audubon Society*, Branford, CT 2008  
Young Naturalist Award, *American Museum of Natural History*, New York, NY. 2007

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Potter, A. B.**, Imron, M.A., and S. Pudyatmoko. (in prep.) The impact of grazing by wild ungulates on a grassland in Java.

**Potter, A.B.** and A.A. Dhondt (submitted) Observations on White-naped Tits *Parus nuchalis* during the breeding season. Forktail.

Munjpara, S., **Potter, A.**, Solanki, P., and J. Tak. (2009) First record of Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* from Kachchh, India. *Indian Birds* 4(3): 112 (2008).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Fulbright Student Research Scholar**, *Universitas Gadjah Mada*, Yogyakarta, Indonesia 2012 - 2013  
Investigated the ecological effects of grazing by endangered wild cattle (Banteng) and deer on a grassland in Alas Purwo National Park, East Java, through the use of grazing exclosures. Worked closely with park officials and researchers at UGM.

**Honors Thesis Research**, *Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University* July 2011- May 2012

Researched the breeding biology, territoriality, and conservation of the little-known, threatened, endemic bird *Parus nuchalis* in western India. Advisor: Prof. André Dhondt, Professor of Ornithology

**Field Technician**, *Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Yale University* June, Aug. 2011  
Assisted a PhD candidate in studying how evolutionary history informs grassland composition and function across a precipitation gradient. Tasks included biomass clipping, species composition, specimen collection, and measuring plant traits. Worked at 10+ field sites from Arizona to Illinois.

**Sound Recording**, *Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY* Jan. 2011  
Recorded high-quality .wav sound files of bird vocalizations in the Western Ghats and Little Rann of Kutch for the Macaulay Library of Sound. Added new species to the sound collection.

**Field Technician**, *Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Yale University* Summer 2010  
Assisted a PhD candidate in studying the relative importance of top-down and bottom-up forces in a tallgrass prairie in Konza Prairie LTER. Participated in the REU program.

**Grassland Bird Technician**, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln* Summer 2009  
Assisted a Master's thesis study of nesting productivity and site fidelity in Pipestone NM, Minnesota. Found and monitored nests and conducted point counts, vegetation surveys, mist netting, and bird banding.

**Independent Study**, Kutch, Gujarat, India Dec. 2008  
Studied birds and vegetation of the tropical thorn forest, supported by the Explorer's Club.

**Assistant to Conservation Biologist**, *Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India* Summer 2007  
Helped monitor populations of two endangered bustards in the Naliya grasslands of Kutch, GJ, India.

**Field Ornithologist**, *GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India* Summer 2006  
Independently surveyed birds in 400-hectare Indroda Nature Park for one month and wrote a report highlighting relative abundance and nesting habits of 70+ species. Awarded Young Naturalist's Award. Essay online at: <http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/2007/Arjun.html>

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Consulting Ecologist**, *Rock Cobble Farm, Kent, CT* 2014  
Developed strategies to improve 190 acres of pasture and hayfield with a focus on soil fertility and species composition. Prepared a management plan that integrates biodiversity conservation with grass-fed beef production. Started a herbarium collection and gained experience with animal husbandry.

**Work-study: Admin. Assistant**, *Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY* 2009 - 2011  
Evaluated citizen science data quality for Project FeederWatch and assisted a project using RFID technology to study chickadees.

**Work-study: Writing Tutor**, *College of the Atlantic Writing Center, Bar Harbor, ME* 2008 - 2009  
Helped students improve their writing skills through peer tutoring.

**Intern**, *Center for Industrial Ecology, Yale School of Forestry, New Haven, CT* Summer 2008

Compiled a bibliographic library and organized periodicals for the editor of the Journal of Industrial Ecology.

**Vendor and Farmer**, *Two Guys from Woodbridge*, Hamden, CT Summer 2008  
Grew produce on a small certified-organic hydroponic farm and sold at local farmers' markets.

## SKILLS

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Software: VORTEX9 (Population Viability Analysis), MARK (mark-recapture software), R Statistical Software (packages include Leslie Matrix, VEGAN), POPULUS, EndNote, RefWorks, ArcGIS, MS Office.

Language: English (native); Indonesian (intermediate-advanced); Latin (proficient); Spanish (conversational); Hindi, Gujarati, Sanskrit (basic).

Other: Wilderness First Responder (certified Jan 2015).