

ARJUN BRANDRETH POTTER

CONTACT

131 Cottage Street, New Haven, CT 06511 / 203 787 0037 (h) 203 605 5700 (c) / abp47@cornell.edu

EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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).