

# ERIN PHILLIPS

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University

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## EDUCATION

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- 2020-present**                      **Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**  
PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- 2018-2019**                        **Emory University, Atlanta, GA**  
Robert T Jones Memorial Scholar                      4.0 GPA
- 2014-2018**                        **University of St Andrews, Scotland**  
BSc (Hons) Zoology    First Class Honours  
Senior dissertation title: *Live protected, die old? The effect of ecology and mode-of-life on the longevity of reptiles and amphibians..*

## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2019-20**                            **Research Specialist in Canine Cognitive Neuroscience, Berns Lab, Emory University**  
Trained machine learning classifiers to predict stimulus input based on fMRI data obtained from awake dogs. Responsibilities included designing and implementing experimental protocol, data processing, script writing (Python, Bash), and facilitating day to day running of the lab.
- 2017-18**                            **Laidlaw Undergraduate Intern in Research and Leadership, University of St Andrews**  
Project title: *Analysing Aggregation: the effect of prey group shape on detection by predators*. Supervised by Professor Graeme Ruxton. Designed, pursued and reported on a unique research question over 10 weeks while undergoing extensive leadership training.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

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- Mar. 2019**                        **Independent Study, Amazon Rainforest, Peru**  
Designed and carried out individual project surveying bird species diversity while on field course with Emory University, recording and mapping GPS data for all sightings. Conducted plant and animal biodiversity surveys in a variety of habitat types including riparian shrub, flooded forest, flooded meadow canopy and lotic fresh water.
- Fall 2018**                        **Field Assistant, Emory University, Southeastern United States**  
Involved in various reptile and amphibian surveys, including PIT tagging critically endangered Eastern hellbenders to allow their continued monitoring in the Southern Appalachians.
- Summer 2016**                    **Research Assistant, Dinokeng Game Reserve, Limpopo, South Africa**  
Conducted biodiversity surveys, veldt condition assessments and camera trap surveys, contributing to ongoing assessment of elephant damage to understand their roles as ecosystem engineers in confined systems.
- 2014-16**                        **Independent Study, United Kingdom, various**  
Involved in a variety of field projects across the United Kingdom while studying at the University of St Andrews, with highlights including coastal surveys of endangered *Asterina* species in Pembrokeshire, dragonfly sampling in Lancashire and observational studies of prey preference in wild birds in St Andrews, Scotland.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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- 2018-19** Robert T. Jones Memorial Scholarship, *Emory University, Atlanta, GA*  
**2018** Honorary Life Membership, *University of St Andrews Students' Association*  
**2018** Margaret Laing Bell Prize awarded to the outstanding Senior Honours student in Environmental Biology, *University of St Andrews*  
**2018** Charles Darwin Award and Marsh Prize nominee, *Zoological Society of London, UK*  
**2018** Medal of Achievement in Fourth Year Biology, *University of St Andrews*  
**2016-18** Dean's List Scholar, *University of St Andrews*  
**2014** Valedictorian, *Calderside Academy, Scotland*  
**2013** Summer Scholarship, *Sutton Trust, UK*

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- 2017-18** School of Biology Student President, *University of St Andrews*  
**2016-18** Student Ambassador, *University of St Andrews*  
**2016-18** First Chances Mentor, *University of St Andrews*  
**2015-present** Committee member of St Andrews Blood Donation Society and Donate Life at Emory  
**2015-17** Student Curator, Bell-Pettigrew Museum of Natural History, *University of St Andrews*

## SKILLS

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Programming languages: Proficient in Python, R and Bash, familiar with HTML and SQL  
Software: AFNI, ITK-SNAP, PsychoPy, Google BigQuery, Google Data Studio, Jupyter, MS Office  
Languages: English (native), Latin (basic)