

---

# Robert Crystal-Ornelas

*rob.crystal.ornelas [at] rutgers.edu*

*www.robcystalornelas.org*

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Invasion Biology
- Quantitative Ecology
- Geographic Information Systems
- Biostatistics

## EDUCATION

- 2017-present      **University of California Davis**, Bodega Marine Lab, Bodega Bay, CA  
Visiting Graduate Researcher
- 2016-present      **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ  
PhD Candidate – Ecology and Evolution
- 2004-2008        **Boston University**, Boston, MA  
B.A. – Biology, *Magna cum Laude*

## TEACHING

- Spring 2017      **Rutgers University**, *Teaching Assistant*  
Computational Genetics of Big Data
- Fall 2016        **Rutgers University**, *Teaching Assistant*  
General Biology Laboratory
- Spring 2016      **Hunter College, CUNY**, *Adjunct Faculty*  
Statistical Methods in Psychology
- 2014-2015        **Hunter College, CUNY**, *Teaching Assistant*  
Experimental Psychology

## GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2017              Rutgers Ecology and Evolution Graduate Student Grant (\$1,000)
- 2017              Teaching Assistant Professional Development Fund Award (\$925)
- 2016              Student Conference on Conservation Science - NYC, *Best Speed Talk*
- 2016              CUNY Doctoral Student Research Grant (\$1,093)
- 2016              NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, *Honorable Mention*
- 2015              Science & Art Collaborative Residency Program
- 2015              NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, *Honorable Mention*
- 2014              Hunter College Animal Behavior Research Grant (\$150)

*Rob.crystal.ornelas@rutgers.edu*

*www.robcystalornelas.org*

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2017                    **Crystal-Ornelas, R.**, Lockwood, J. L., Cassey, P., & Hauber, M. E. (2017). The establishment threat of the obligate brood-parasitic Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*) in North America and the Antilles. *The Condor*, 119(3), 449-458.
- 2015                    **Crystal-Ornelas, R.** & Hauber, M. E. Assessing the impact of invasive species in avian populations: Recent ornithological advances in function and applied invasion biology. *AOU Joint Collections*.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

- 2016                    Gage, A., Crystal-Ornelas, R., Quispe, J., Williams, K. *Exploration of spatial factors affecting species richness in central New Jersey forests*. Presentation given at GIS Day, Rutgers University.
- 2016                    Crystal-Ornelas, R., Lockwood, J. L., Cassey, P., Hauber, M. E. *Novel hosts are critical when predicting spread of invasive avian brood parasite*. Presentation given at Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York City, NY.
- 2016                    Kimpton, R., Crystal-Ornelas, R., Williams-Sam, S. A., Courcelles, D., Laurent, E. J., Santiago-Blay, J. A. *The Humanities, Including the Arts, and Social Sciences in the Teaching and Learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): Exploring this Ecotone and Proposing an Explicitly Inclusive Approach (ISTEM)*. Abstract for SCI Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, Penn State Leigh Valley, Center Valley, PA.
- 2015                    Crystal-Ornelas, R. *Science, art, and an introduced species*. Presentation given at SwampSpace Gallery, Miami, FL.
- 2013                    Crystal-Ornelas, R. *High quality STEM learning after school*. Presentation given at the National After School Association. Indianapolis, IN.
- 2010                    Crystal-Ornelas, R. *Nesting shorebirds and depredation events recorded by camera traps*. Presentation given at the Massachusetts Coastal Waterbird Conference, Cape Cod Community College.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2016                    Crystal-Ornelas L., Murphy E., Martinez D., Crystal-Ornelas, R., Collins C. Cada Paso: Every Step to Access. Poster session at: New York State Pediatric Advocacy Coalition, 2016 March 17, Columbia University, NYC.

## SERVICE

- 2017-present **RU Eco. & Evo. Graduate Student Association**, Communications Chair  
Manage communications for Ecology and Evolution Graduate Association
- 2016-present **Ecological Society of America Student Section**, Treasurer  
Manage finances for the ESA's Student Section
- 2014-2016 **Cyclopedia East Harlem**, *volunteer*  
Co-leader for youth cycling trips with focus on community and environmental health.
- 2013-2014 **New Urban Arts**, *Studio Organizer*  
Blended science and art through sculpture and digital media.  
Instructed students in art practices such as silkscreen and sewing.
- 2011-2013 **Providence After School Alliance**, *STEM Coordinator*  
Managed AmeriCorps program which introduced middle school youth to science careers and hands-on science experiments.

## MEMBERSHIP

- Ecological Society of America, *member*  
Rutgers University Ecology and Evolution Graduate Student Association, *member*  
Society for Conservation Biology, *member*