Diego Sustaita, Ph.D.
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
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ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Postdoctoral Research & Teaching Associate, Brown University, *Currently*
- Ph.D. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, 2013
- M.S. Biology, California State University, Northridge, 2005
- B.S. Biology, California State University, Northridge, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Sustaita D, Rubega MA. 2014. The anatomy of a shrike bite: bill shape and bite performance in Loggerhead Shrikes. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 112: 485-498.

Hertel F, Maldonado JE, Sustaita D. 2014. Wing and hindlimb myology of vultures and raptors (Accipitriformes) in relation to locomotion and foraging. Acta Zoologica *Early View*.

Burgio KR, Rubega MA, Sustaita D. 2014. Nest-building behavior of Monk Parakeets and insights into potential mechanisms for reducing damage to utility poles. PeerJ 2:e601; DOI 10.7717/peerj.601.

Sustaita D, Pouydebat E, Manzano A, Abdala V, Hertel F, Herrel A. 2013. Getting a grip on tetrapod grasping: form, function, and evolution. Biological Reviews 88: 380-405.

Sustaita D, Quickert PF, Patterson L, Barthman-Thompson L, Estrella S. 2011. Salt marsh harvest mouse demography and habitat use in Suisun Marsh, California. Journal of Wildlife Management 75: 1498-1507.

Sustaita D, Hertel, F. 2010. *In-vivo* bite and grip forces, morphology, and prey-killing behavior of North American accipiters (Accipitridae) and falcons (Falconidae). Journal of Experimental Biology 213: 2617-2628.

Sustaita D. 2008. Musculoskeletal underpinnings to differences in killing behavior between North American accipiters (Falconiformes: Accipitridae) and falcons (Falconidae). Journal of Morphology 269: 283-301.

Popular Articles & Press Coverage:

"Seed eaters bite harder than raptors," by Kathryn Knight, 2010. *Inside JEB*, Journal of Experimental Biology 213: i-ii.

Sustaita D, Hertel F. 2006. Bite and grip performance in relation to killing behavior of North American accipiters and falcons. *Raptor Watch* 20 (3): 1.

Unpublished Manuscripts & Theses:

Sustaita D, Owen CL, Villarreal JC, Rubega MA. *Accepted*. Morphometric tools for sexing California populations of Loggerhead Shrikes based on DNA. [The Southwestern Naturalist, August 2013].

Backus SB, Sustaita D, Odhner LU, Dollar AM. *In review*. Mechanical analysis of avian feet: multiarticular muscles in grasping and perching. [Royal Society Open Science, October 2014].

Sustaita D. *Under revision*. Interspecific geographic variation in upper bill shape of Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) in an interspecific context. [Auk, May 2014].

Sustaita D, Rubega MA, Hartman G. *In prep.* Fishing for function with a new hook: morphofunctional correlates of Loggerhead Shrike (Passeriformes: Laniidae) feeding ecology based on stable isotopes.

Sustaita D, Patterson L, Barthman-Thompson L, Estrella S, Finfrock PQ. *In prep.* Field metrics for distinguishing between salt marsh (*Reithrodontomys raviventris halicoetes*) and western (*R. megalotis longicauda*) harvest mice in the Suisun Marsh, California.

Sustaita D. 2013. Biomechanics of feeding in Loggerhead Shrikes. Ph.D. Dissertation: University of Connecticut.

Sustaita D. 2005. Musculoskeletal underpinnings to differences in killing behavior between North American accipiters and falcons. M.S. Thesis: California State University, Northridge.

AWARDS

- *Greg and Mona Anderson Award for Best Dissertation of 2013*, Dept. of Ecol. & Evol. Biology, Univ. of Connecticut, 2014
- *D. Dwight Davis Best Student Presentation Award*, Society for Integrative & Comparative Biologists, DVM, 2007
- *Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Award*, Dept. of Biology, CSU Northridge, 2005
- *William C. Anderson Memorial Best Student Oral Presentation Award*, Raptor Research Foundation, 2004

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Grants in Aid of Research, Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology, 2013 ($1,000)
- The Journal of Experimental Biology Travelling Fellowship, 2012 ($2,272)
- Student Travel Award, NAOC, Vancouver 2012 ($300)
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant IOS-1110716, NSF, 2011 ($14,452)
- Student Research Awards, CT Museum of Natural History/EEB, 2008-2011 ($1517)
- NSF Travel Award, North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz 2006 ($631)
- Ralph W. Schreiber Ornithology Research Award, LA Audubon Society, 2005 ($2,500)
- Grants-in-Aid of Research, Sigma Xi, 2003 ($807)
- Graduate Thesis Support Program Grant, CSU Northridge, 2003 ($1000)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars:

Sustaita, D. 2012. Birds' beaks and feats. Brown University Morphology Group, Brown University, Providence, RI. [16 February].

Sustaita, D. 2011. Getting a grip on grasping performance in birds. Yale Robotics Seminar Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT. [08 July].

Conference Papers (oral/poster):*

*Sustaita, D, M Rubega, S Farabaugh. 2014. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Integrative and Comparative Biology, Abstract 91.3.

*Sustaita, D, M Rubega, G Hartman. 2013. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Integrative and Comparative Biology, Abstract 35.2.

Sustaita, D. 2013. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Integrative and Comparative Biology, Abstract P2.47.

*Sustaita, D & M Rubega. 2012. North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, BC.

*Sustaita, D & M Rubega. 2012. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Integrative and Comparative Biology 52 (suppl 1): e170.

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2010. Symposium on Grasping in Tetrapods, International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Sustaita, D & M Rubega. 2010. International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, Punta del Este, Uruguay.

*Sustaita, D. 2009. Division of Vertebrate Morphology Northeast Regional Meeting, Brown University.

Sustaita, D. 2009. American Ornithologists' Union Meeting Abstracts: 123.

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2007. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting Abstracts: 9.4. [***D. Dwight Davis Award***: "Bite and grip performance in relation to killing behavior of North American accipiters and falcons."]

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2006. IV North American Ornithological Conference Abstracts: 326.

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2005. American Ornithologist's Union Meeting Abstracts: 81.

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2005. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Integrative and Comparative Biology 46 (suppl 1): e138.

*Sustaita, D & F Hertel. 2004. Raptor Research Foundation 2004 Annual Meeting Abstracts: 42. [***William C. Anderson Award***: "An anatomical comparison of the hindlimb and jaw of North American hawks and falcons in relation to prey procurement."]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Teaching Associate, *Alpert Medical School, Brown University* 2013-present

- Integrated Medical Sciences I (3644) & II (3655): Human Anatomy. Responsibilities involve assisting students in lab and small-group review sessions, and some lecturing

Undergraduate Mentoring, *Rubega Lab, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, UCONN* 2011-2012

- Administered student project entitled "Digital Image Analysis of Avian Bill Shape and Function;" trained two students in digital video image analysis, software applications, and data management

Field Ornithology Instructor, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, UCONN* 2007-2009

- Developed curriculum and taught an introductory summer course on designing and implementing avian field studies, involving lecture, lab, and field components

Teaching Assistant, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, UCONN* 2006-2012

- Foundations of Biology
- Ornithology Laboratory
- Comparative Anatomy Laboratory
- Mammalogy Laboratory
- Human Evolution
- Biology of the Vertebrates
- Principles of Biology I & II Laboratories

Graduate Assistant/Teaching Associate*, *Dept. of Biology, CSU Northridge* 2001-2005

- Design & Analysis of Experiments
- Laboratory Studies in Human Anatomy*
- Mammalogy
- Avian Ecology

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for the following professional journals:

- Organisms Diversity and Evolution (2014)
- Journal of Morphology (2008, 2012[2], 2014[2])
- North American Bird Bander (2013)
- Marine Ecology Progress Series (2014)
- Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia (2012)
- Journal of Experimental Zoology (2008, 2012)
- Journal of Zoology (2010)
- Functional Ecology (2013, 2014)
- Acta Zoologica (2014)
- Auk (2014)
- Condor (2009)
- PLoS ONE (2009)
- Animal Behaviour (2012)
- Biotropica (2010, 2011)
- Ibis (2010[2], 2013)

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

- Presenter, high-speed video demo, Mansfield Middle School, Mansfield, CT (2013)
- Workshop instructor (Avian Census Techniques), Wildlife Society Northeast Student Conclave, Ashford, CT (2013)
- Guest lecturer, Natchaug Ornithological Society, Mansfield, CT (2013)
- Coordinator, UCONN EEB elementary school program in organismal biology/ecology, Franklin Elementary School, Franklin, CT (2012)
- Spanish medical interpreter, UCONN Migrant Farm Worker Clinics, throughout CT (2011)
- Consultant for educational exhibit, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Lindsay, CA (2009/2010)
- Participant in avian biodiversity surveys for BioBlitz, Hartford, CT (2009)
- Guest lecturer, New Haven Bird Club, New Haven, CT (2007)
- Field Crew Leader, Earthwatch Institute, Endangered Cuban Sandhill Crane Research Expedition, Isla de la Juventud, Cuba (2004)