

Max Roberts

Physiological Ecology of Reptiles Laboratory (PERL)
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Education

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) Fall 2023 – Present
M.S. Biological Sciences (Advisor: Dr. Emily Taylor)

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Fall 2018 – Spring 2022
B.S. Zoology, Cumulative GPA of 3.86 (Dean's Honors)

Paid Positions

Rattlesnake Relocation Subcontractor – Central Coast Snake Services (CCSS)
May 2024 – August 2024 (Unpredictable hours)

- Provided free rattlesnake relocations on call for San Luis Obispo County, CA

Teaching Associate – Biological Sciences, Cal Poly
September 2023 – Present (12-15 hours per week)

- Teach lab classes for Intro to Ecology & Evolution, General Biology, and Ornithology

Colorado IMBCR Field Technician – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
May 8th, 2023 – July 18th, 2023 (40 hours per week)

- Conducted passerine bird point counts on public and private lands
- Drove 4WD vehicles on rough roads and backpacked off trail in the mountains

East Zone Wildlife Technician – Modoc National Forest, U.S. Forest Service (Hired through Modoc County Farm Bureau)
June 17th, 2022 – October 14th, 2022 (40 hours per week)

- Conducted wildlife surveys targeting the Northern Goshawk and their nests
- Assisted remote Spotted Owl and pine marten presence/absence surveys

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) Student Intern
January 2020 – March 18th, 2022 (+80 hours)

- Facilitated standardized bird and mammal monitoring surveys
- Conducted habitat restoration and on-site maintenance
- Assisted the cleaning and upkeep of the vertebrate museum dry specimens

Snowy Plover Docent/Reserve Intern – Coal Oil Point Reserve, UCSB

April 2019 – March 18th 2022 (+160 hours for field work, +15 hours for indoor work)

- Collected data on beach usage and entered data into the reserve's online database
- Assisted population surveys of the endangered Snowy Plover
- Processed camera trap images and assisted with periodic camera maintenance
- Alleviated conflicts between the interests of beachgoers and endangered birds

Desk Attendant – Residential and Community Living, UCSB

November 2018 – November 2019 (12-15 hours per week)

- Managed the front desk of Santa Rosa Hall and addressed the needs of residents
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Internships and Service Work

Graduate Student – PERL, Cal Poly

September 2023 – Present (~50 hours per quarter)

- Host professional workshops for undergraduate students
- Work with landowners to conduct local herpetological surveys
- Facilitate educational outreach programs focused on snake conservation

ArcGIS Community Service Project – Applied GIS Course, Cal Poly

April 2024 – June 2024 (~4 hours per week)

- Collaborated with the City of San Luis Obispo to update its GIS vegetation maps

CRC Internship – Crocodile Research Coalition

January 30th, 2023 – March 4th, 2023 (30 hours per week)

- Assisted nocturnal eyeshine surveys and CMR surveys for crocodilians
- Facilitated community outreach given to school groups and local communities
- Observed captive crocodiles and recorded descriptions of their behavior patterns
- Performed necropsies on a crocodile and a manatee

California Ecology and Conservation Field Course – University of California

March 28th, 2022 – May 16th, 2022

- Worked in groups to design scientific studies and then conducted them in real time
- Presented scientific findings in a research symposium setting
- Worked and camped in the field with 25 other undergraduate students for 7 weeks

California Red-legged Frog Survey – Padres Associates Inc.

February 7th – 10th, 2022 (~2 hours a night, ~8 hours total)

- Assisted nocturnal eyeshine surveys for endangered amphibians

Briggs Lab Field Technician – Briggs Lab, UCSB

June 30th, 2021 – September 12th, 2021 (+130 hours)

- Collected genetic samples and Bd swabs from Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs
- Led subalpine lake reptile and amphibian population surveys
- Backpacked into and out of remote and rugged country while carrying heavy loads

SWHS Member – Southwestern Herpetologists Society

Spring 2013 – Spring 2023 (+60 hours)

- Facilitated coverboard surveys for reptiles and amphibians

Duttenhaver Student Fellowship – Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association

July 5th, 2018 – July 17th, 2018 (~40 hours)

- Conduct bird point counts in fragmented habitats in Southern Costa Rica

Student Keeper – Los Angeles Zoo

September 2017 – May 2018 (~50 hours with apes, ~80 hours with reptiles and amphibians)

- Practiced animal husbandry techniques for chimpanzees, reptiles, and amphibians
 - Assisted the daily work of zookeepers and curators
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Papers and Posters (Accessible from my professional website)

2024 **M. Roberts**, O. Bachhuber, S. Boback, E. Taylor. Project RattleCam: Utilizing live-streaming technology to study rattlesnake behavior and improve public perceptions. Presented at SEGVII and 2024 SSAR conferences.

O. Bachhuber, **M. Roberts**, E. Taylor, G. Smith, K. Larson, C. Zedenek. Under the snakefluence: a global study of snake perceptions and education. Presented at SEGVII and 2024 SSAR conferences.

2022 **M. Roberts**. Determining and comparing the cover object microclimate niches of reptiles and amphibians in coastal Southern California. (unpublished undergraduate research).

S. Malik, **M. Roberts**, R. Kinzel. The impact of desert woodrats (*Neotoma lepida*) on stress levels of buckhorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa*). *California Ecology and Conservation Research*. <https://doi.org/10.21973/N38D5T>

Presentations

2024 **"Project RattleCam: Utilizing live-streaming technology to study rattlesnake behavior and improve public perceptions"**
SWPARC Annual Conference – August 15th, 2024
"Project RattleCam: Uncovering the secret lives of rattlesnakes and changing public perceptions"
Southwestern Herpetologist Society monthly meeting - April 6th, 2023
"Coastal California herpetological field survey methods"
PERL weekly meeting – February 2nd, 2024

- 2023** **"How to apply to seasonal field positions and internships"**
PERL weekly meeting - November 17th, 2023
"Understanding the cover object microclimate niches of reptiles and amphibians"
PERL weekly meeting - October 6th, 2023
"Studying Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs and *Bd* in the Eastern Sierra Nevada"
Southwestern Herpetologist Society monthly meeting - January 7th, 2023
- 2022** **"Woodrats and their impacts on cholla health"**
CEC Spring Research Symposium - May 15th, 2022
"Understanding the cover object microclimate niches of reptiles and amphibians"
Dr. Hillary Young Lab weekly meeting - February 2022
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Grants and Fellowships

- 2024** Student Travel Award, SSAR – **\$500**
Graduate Conference Award, Cal Poly – **\$500**
Roger Conant Grant in Herpetology, SSAR – **\$500**
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) – **\$111,000 over 3 academic years**
Barney Tomberlin Memorial Grant for Herpetological Field Research – **\$250**
- 2023** Baker-Koob Endowment (group effort application process), Cal Poly – **\$5,000**
Graduate Assistantship, Cal Poly – **\$7,500**
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Applications and Tools

Field Gear

Mobile GPS	Refractometer	Quadrats
Topographical Maps	Camera Traps	Sweep nets & Beat sheets
Binoculars & Scopes	Sherman traps	DSLR and FLIR Cameras

Digital Applications

Microsoft Office Suite	Mobile Mapper
Slack	INaturalist, HerpMapper, and eBird
Program R and JMP	Adobe Photoshop
ArcGIS	
