

## Dr. Nadjé Najar

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nadjé\\_Najar](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nadjé_Najar)

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### Education

**Ph.D. University of Northern Colorado – August 2018** Biological Education, School of Biological Sciences  
Dissertation: Geographic variation in rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) song complexity  
*Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence*

**B.A. University of California, Berkeley – August 2010** Neurobiology, Molecular and Cell Biology  
Undergraduate Research: Variation in Fuelleborn's Sunbird (*Nectarinia fuellebornii*) song on Tanzanian sky islands

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

Klicka, L., **Najar, N.**, Vazquez-Miranda, H., & Zink, B. (2024) Relationships among North American deer based on mitochondrial DNA and ultraconserved elements, with comments on mito-nuclear discordance. *Mammal Research* <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3006994/v1>

McEntee, J. P., Zhelezov, G., Werema, C., **Najar, N.**, Peñalba, J. V., Mulungu, E., ... & Bowie, R. C. (2021). Punctuated evolution in the learned songs of African sunbirds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 288(1963), 20212062.

Dargis, L., Benedict, L., & **Najar, N.** (2021). Female bird song rates do not covary with population density in a North American species. *Ethology*, 127(12), 1042-1052.

Zink, R. M., **Najar, N.**, Vázquez-Miranda, H., Buchanan, B. L., Loy, D., & Brodersen, B. W. (2020). Geographic variation in the PRNP gene and its promoter, and their relationship to chronic wasting disease in North American deer. *Prion*, 14(1), 185-192.

Mitchell, L., Benedict, L., Cavar, J., **Najar, N.**, & Logue, D. (2019) The evolution of vocal duets and migration in New World warblers (Parulidae). *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* DOI: 10.1093/auk/ukz003

Benedict, L. & **Najar, N.** (2019) Are commonly used measures of bird song complexity correlated? *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*. DOI: 10.1093/auk/uky008

**Najar, N.** & Benedict, L. (2018) The relationship between latitude, migration, and the evolution of bird song complexity. *Ibis*. DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12648

**Najar, N.**, Benedict, L., Doll, A., & Spellman, G. (2017). Highlighting the use of museum collections in avian research. *Auk and Condor Joint Special Collection*, [https://academic.oup.com/aosjournals/pages/museum\\_collections](https://academic.oup.com/aosjournals/pages/museum_collections)

**Najar, N.** & Benedict, L. (2015). Female song in New World wood-warblers (Parulidae). *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* DOI: 10.3389/FEVO.2015.00139

### Not Peer-Reviewed

**Najar, N.**, Wilcox, S., Fernandez, L., & Clark, C. (in revision) Comparing the relative role of wingbeat kinematics and muscle power as limits to maximum flight speed in hummingbirds. *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

**Najar, N.**, Benedict, L., McCullough, J., Spellman, G., & Andersen, M., (*In prep*) Migratory behavior correlates with morphology but not genetic population structure in rock wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

Spellman, G., **Najar, N.**, McCullough, J., Benedict, L., & Andersen, M. (*In prep*) Origin and evolution of the extinct San Benedicto Island rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus exsul*) revealed by phylogeographic analysis of genome-wide variation.

Benedict, L., N. B. Warning, **N. A. Najar**, S. G. Pitt, P. E. Lowther, D. E. Kroodsma, and G. H. Farley (2021). Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), version 2.0. In *Birds of the World* (P. G. Rodewald and B. K. Keeney, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rocwre.02>

## Funding

California Conservation Genomics Project Grant (2020) \$47,048  
Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant (2016) \$1000  
Colorado Field Ornithologists Research Grant (2016) \$1406  
American Ornithologists' Union Student Research Grant (2015) \$2300  
University of Northern Colorado Graduate Student Association Student Research Grants (2013-2018) \$1770  
University of Northern Colorado Natural and Health Sciences Student Research Grant (2014) \$400  
University of Northern Colorado Summer Funding Grants (2014-2017) \$12,800

## Employment

**Instructor of Record** (Su 2022, 2023) – BIOL 110: Biology of Human Problems, UCR, Riverside, CA  
**Instructor of Record** (Fa 2022 – W 2023) – BIOL 005B: Introduction to Organismal Biology, UCR, Riverside, CA  
**Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow** (2020-2022) – University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA. Use whole genomes to identify regions associated with migratory behaviors in *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Postdoc advisors – Alan Brelsford and Chris Clark  
**Postdoctoral Fellow** (2020) – University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA. Use whole genomes to identify regions associated with courtship phenotype in *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Postdoc advisors – Alan Brelsford and Chris Clark  
**Postdoctoral Researcher** (2019) – University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.  
Identify PRNP alleles associated with resistance to chronic wasting disease in white-tailed and mule deer, use sequence capture to study local adaptation in wild and captive ring-necked pheasants. Postdoc advisor – Bob Zink  
**Instructor of Record** (2014) BIO 438/538: Ornithology – School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley CO  
**Museum of Natural History Manager** (2013-2018) – University of Northern Colorado, Greeley CO  
Responsibilities included collections management, specimen preparation (birds, mammals, herps), organizing public events, and managing up to 8 undergraduate and graduate students at a time.  
**Teaching Assistant** (2012-2018) – BIO 111: Organismal Biology, BIO 245: Human Anatomy, SCI 266: Earth and Life Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley CO. Taught 7 semesters of labs with occasional guest lectures.

## Presentations

**American Ornithological Society** (2024) – invited talk, Female Birds symposium  
**Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology** (2024) – oral presentation  
**Max Planck Institute, Plön, Germany** (2023) – Vocal Complexity Symposium, invited talk  
**International Ornithological Congress** (2022) – oral presentation  
**Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology** (2022) – oral presentation  
**Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology** (2021) – oral presentation  
**Animal Behavior Society Meeting** (2019) Chicago, IL – Allee Symposium, invited talk  
**University of Nebraska-Lincoln Behavior Group** (2018) Lincoln, NE - invited seminar  
**American Ornithological Society Meeting** (2018) Tucson, AZ - oral presentation - *Winner of an AOS Mark E. Hauber student presentation award*  
**School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado** (2018) Greeley, CO - invited seminar  
**American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists Joint Meeting** (2017) Lansing, MI - oral presentation  
**Colorado Field Ornithologists Meeting** (2017) Steamboat Springs, CO - oral presentation  
**Animal Behavior Society Meeting** (2016) Columbia, MO - oral presentation

**American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society Joint Meeting** (2015) Norman, OK - oral presentation - *Winner of a COS Student Presentation Award*

**Front Range Student Ecology Symposium** (2015) Fort Collins, CO - oral presentation - *Winner of a FRSES Best Student Presentation Award*

**American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists Joint Meeting** (2014) Estes Park, CO - oral presentation.

**Animal Behavior Society Meeting** (2013) Boulder, CO - poster presentation

### **Awards**

UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship (2020-2022) \$54k salary for two years and \$10k research grant

University of Northern Colorado Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence (2018)

American Ornithological Society Mark E. Hauber Award (2018)

American Ornithological Society Student Travel Award (2018)

Cooper Ornithological Society Student Presentation Award (2015)

American Ornithologists' Union/Cooper Ornithological Society Student Travel Award (2015)

Front Range Student Ecology Symposium Best Student Presentation (2015)

### **Service**

**Secretary / Graphic Designer** (2021-2022) Riverside Postdoc Association

**Peer Reviewer:** Bioacoustics, Evolution Letters, Journal of Avian Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ornithology, Journal of Ornithology, Behavioural Processes

**Public Outreach** (2016) Billie Martinez Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class

**Public Outreach** (2015) Cub Scout Pack of Greeley

**Judge** (2013-2015) Longs Peak Science and Engineering Fair for middle and high school students