

Curriculum Vitae

Michael A. Tofflemire

Ph.D. Candidate

Biology Department

University of California Riverside /

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. –Evolutionary Biology (Joint Doctoral program)

University of California Riverside, Riverside CA, USA

San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, USA

2020-present, expected graduation Fall 2026

B.S. –Biology (concentration: evolution, ecology, conservation)

University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

August 2018

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Tofflemire, M. A.**, Benham, P. M., Cicero, C., Davila, M., Smith, L., Enbody, E. D., Barhoum, D. N., Bowie, R. C. K., & Burns, K. J. Genomic insights into the origins of diversity in a California endemic songbird (*Chamaea fasciata*), *Molecular Ecology* (in review)
2. **Tofflemire, M.A.**, Kevin J. Burns, Jeet Sukumaran. The effects of post-divergence gene flow on simultaneous divergence time testing, *Molecular Ecology Resources* (in press). Preprint: *bioRxiv* 2025.12.01.691639; <https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.01.691639>
3. **Tofflemire, M. A.**, Epperly, K. L., Burns, K. J., & Klicka, J. (2024). Integrative phylogeography and ecological niche analysis reveal insight into the evolutionary history and taxonomy of the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 136(2), 143-165.

AWARDS

Awarded total \$10,000 (as of September 2025)

2025 – Edwards Prize (Best Major Article published in volume 136). *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*.

2022 – SSB Graduate Student Research Award. Society of Systematic Biology. \$3000.

2022 – Research Award, American Ornithological Society. \$2500.

2022 – Frank M. Chapman Award. American Museum of Natural History. \$3000.

2021 – Ralph W. Schreiber Ornithological Research Award. Los Angeles Audubon Society. \$1500.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS/symposia/workshops

2025 – **Tofflemire, A. Michael**. Evaluating the robustness of inferring shared evolutionary events with the full-likelihood Bayesian approach. Joint Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), the Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB), and the American Society of Naturalists (ASN). Athens, GA, USA.

2025 – **Tofflemire, A. Michael**. Ecological Niche modeling of Late Pleistocene Megafauna. *Workshop for Undergraduates*, San Diego State University. San Diego, CA, USA.

2024 – **Tofflemire, A. Michael**. Whole genome phylogeography of the Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*). Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA, USA.

2024 – **Tofflemire, A. Michael**. Whole genome phylogeography of the Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*). American Ornithological Society (AOS) Annual Meeting. Estes Park, CO, USA.

2021– **Tofflemire, A. Michael**. Combining genetic, morphological and ecological-niche modeling methods to assess range-wide biogeographic patterns & the evolutionary history of (*Setophaga nigrescens*). American Ornithological Society (AOS) Virtual Meeting.

2018 – **Tofflemire, Michael A.** Genetic structure and biogeography of the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) in Western North America. Independent research presented at the 2018 University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium. Seattle, WA, USA.

POSITIONS

2023 – Present – **Research Technician II, SDSU Biodiversity Museum, San Diego State University**

San Diego, CA, USA

Supervisor: Dr. Kevin J. Burns, Professor:

Managing the ornithology tissue collections at San Diego State University's Biodiversity Museum. Preparing avian tissue loans requested by various institutions. Organizing, cataloguing, and updating local and digital specimen databases. Other tasks included maintenance of molecular-grade lab facility. Mentoring graduate and undergraduate students on various projects and internships in the biodiversity museum. Presenter at various public outreach events in association with the biodiversity museum.

2020 – Present – **Graduate teaching associate, University of California Riverside and San Diego State University**

Riverside/San Diego, CA, USA

Department of Biology, *Advisor(s): Dr. Kevin J. Burns (SDSU); Dr. Mark Springer (UCR)*

Dissertation research focused on comparative phylogeography and population landscape genomics in a western North American avifaunal study system to broadly understand evolutionary mechanisms driving biodiversity patterns in a global biodiversity hotspot, the California Floristic Province. Using an integrative framework encompassing the collecting and processing of morphological, genomic, and ecological datasets. Experience spans wet-lab DNA tissue extractions and sample preparation for whole genome sequencing, bioinformatics processing of whole genomic sequencing data, and building computational pipelines for

population genomics analyses, demographic modeling, and climatic niche modeling to identify spatial predictors of genomic variation with the goal of conserving species diversity. Additional experience working with simulated genomic datasets to test limitations of important population and phylogenomic pipelines that utilize full-likelihood Bayesian approaches. Lead author on peer-reviewed published manuscripts or papers currently in submission process. Successfully secured funding for doctoral research through submission of multiple grants proposals.

2019 – Field Technician, Smithsonian Institution, Migratory Bird Center

Washington D.C., Michigan, USA

Supervisors: Dr. Peter P. Marra, Dr. Nathan W. Cooper

Field Technician for monitoring the Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) in Northern Michigan during the 2019 breeding season. Phenotypic data collection, nest monitoring and banding birds for conservation research studies.

TEACHING

Teaching curriculum -*San Diego State University, University of Washington*

Spring 2026 – BIOL 497: Undergraduate Research (advising 3 students)

*Fall 2025 – BIOL 509: Advanced Evolution.

Fall 2023; Fall 2024 – BIOL 100L: Introductory Biology Laboratory (for Non-majors).

Fall 2020; Spring 2020; Fall 2022 – BIOL 204L: Principles of Organismal Biology Laboratory.

Spring 2017 – BIOL 317: Plant Identification and Classification.

*Course instructor

Non-academic-

2018 – 2025 –Huntington Learning Center Issaquah, WA.

Tutoring high school students in calculus, algebra, biology and chemistry courses in one-on-one sessions. Teaching the ACT and SAT to help students achieve their academic goals for college entrance exams. Identifying weak areas in student's performance and implementing teaching strategies tailored to their needs.

SERVICES

2026 – *Public outreach presenter*. San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering.

2025 – *Member*, Wilson Journal of Ornithology. 2026 Edward's Prize selection committee member.

2023; 2025; 2026 – *Public outreach presenter*. Biodiversity Museum Day, San Diego State University Museum of Biodiversity

2018-2019 – *Volunteer*. UWBM, UW. Genetic resources curatorial (GRC) assistant.

2017, 2018 (Summer)– *Volunteer*. UWBM, UW, Ornithology department. (General collecting field trip in Washington and Oregon, USA)

2017 (Summer) – *Volunteer*. Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture (UWBM), UW, Herbarium department. (General plant collecting field trip in Nevada, USA)

2016 (Summer) – *Volunteer*. Dr. Greg Wilson Mantilla Lab, UW, Seattle, WA, USA.

2016 (Spring) – *Volunteer*. Dr. John Marzluff Lab, University of Washington (UW), Seattle WA, USA.