

Nicholas L. Block

Postdoctoral Researcher
Bird Division, Zoology Department
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
Office: 312-665-7011
Email: nblock@fieldmuseum.org

Instructor
Liberal Arts Department
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
112 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603
Email: nblock@saic.edu



EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D. Evolutionary Biology, August 2012 (Dr. Shannon Hackett, advisor)
M.S. Evolutionary Biology, August 2009 (Dr. Shannon Hackett, advisor)

Texas A&M University

B.Sc. Wildlife and Fisheries Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Autumn 2012 *Instructor, Liberal Arts 3563 – The Biology of Birds*
Designed and taught an ornithology course for non-science majors to two 18-student sections. The course comprised both lecture and lab components.

University of Chicago

Autumn 2011 *Graduate Instructor, Approaches to Teaching in the Darwinian Sciences*
Co-designed a graduate class exploring effective pedagogical strategies in the biological sciences.

March 2011 *Guest Lecturer, Environmental Ecology*
Lecture was “Species Across Time,” which focused largely on understanding extinction events in the Earth’s history.

2007–2011 *Teaching Assistant, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division*
Taught undergraduate lab sections in Biological Diversity and Ecology & Evolution—responsible for introductory lectures, supervising lab, writing exam questions, and grading. Led discussion groups for Ecology & Evolution in the Southwest—responsible for generating discussion questions, introducing outside literature, supervising a final research paper, and grading. Leader on a 2-week field school exploring desert ecosystems in the Southwest—taught students natural history of various desert organisms and supervised group field research projects.

2007–2010 *Teaching Assistant, Biological Sciences Graduate Division*
Mentored graduate students in a scientific integrity and ethics course—responsible for helping them design presentations on various topics. Mentored students applying for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Field Museum of Natural History

May 2010–current Trained, supervised, and mentored undergraduate students (3) conducting research in the Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution.

July 2011 Worked with a high school science educator in the DNA Research Summer Residency to design a lesson plan based on aspects of my research.

March 2011 *Instructor, Northwestern University's Science and Engineering Research and Teaching Synthesis Program*

Conducted a workshop for non-science majors, teaching them the basics of how scientific research works and how its broader impacts can be relevant to them. Trained them in basic molecular systematics lab techniques and explained all the steps of my research, from hypothesis formulation to data analysis to big-picture conclusions.

Courses, Workshops, & Seminars Attended

May 2012 Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning

Autumn 2011 EVOL 49401: Approaches to Teaching in the Darwinian Sciences, University of Chicago

December 2011 Workshop on Course Design, University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning

November 2011 Introduction to Effective Teaching in Science, a workshop led by Dr. Craig Nelson, University of Chicago

October 2011 Seminar on Course Design, University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning

September 2011 Workshop on Teaching in the College, University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Block, N.L., S.G. Goodman, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and M.J. Raherilalao. A passerine cryptic species complex highlights the role of environmental gradients in diversification and biogeography in Madagascar. *Submitted*.

Block, N.L., S.G. Goodman, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and M.J. Raherilalao. Merger of ancient lineages in a passerine bird discovered based on evidence from host-specific ectoparasites. *In review*.

Goodman, S.G., M.J. Raheirilalao, and N.L. **Block**. 2011. Patterns of morphological and genetic variation in the *Mentocrex kiolooides* complex (Aves: Gruiformes: Rallidae) from Madagascar, with the description of a new species. *Zootaxa* 2776:49–60.

Popular

Block, N.L. 2009. Swifts and Hummingbirds. In *American Museum of Natural History Birds of North America* (F. Vuilleumier, Editor). DK Publishing, New York.

Block, N.L. 2009. Sightings: Mid-February to early March 2009. *Winging It* 21(2).

Retter, M.L., and N.L. **Block**. 2008. Sightings: Mid-February 2008 to 10 March 2008. *Winging It* 20(2):12–13.

Block, N.L. 2008. Sightings: Mid-January to early February 2008. *Birding* 40:28–29.

Retter, M.L., and N.L. **Block**. 2008. Sightings: Mid-December 2007 to early January 2008. *Winging It* 20(1):26–27.

Block, N.L. 2007. November/December photo quiz answers: Midwest birding highlights. *Birding* 39:76–78.

Block, N.L. 2006. May/June photo quiz answers: species limits. *Birding* 38:360-362.

Block, N.L. 2005. July/August photo quiz answers: Emberizidae. *Birding* 37:520–522.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Block, N.L., M.J. Raheirilalao, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and S.M. Goodman. 2012. "Parasites reveal despeciation of deeply divergent lineages in a passerine." North American Ornithological Conference. Vancouver, BC (14–18 August).

Block, N.L., M.J. Raheirilalao, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and S.M. Goodman. 2011. "Cryptic species or reticulate evolution? A unique scenario in a passerine bird." *Evolution* 2011. Norman, OK (17–21 June).

Block, N.L., M.J. Raheirilalao, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and S.M. Goodman. 2010. "Unique cryptic diversity in a passerine, *Bernieria madagascariensis*." *Evolution* 2010. Portland, OR (25–29 June).

Block, N.L., M.J. Raheirilalao, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and S.M. Goodman. 2009. "Unique cryptic diversity in a Malagasy passerine." 127th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. Philadelphia, PA (12–15 August).

Block, N.L., M.J. Raheirilalao, S.J. Hackett, J.M. Bates, and S.M. Goodman. 2008. "Surprising genetic diversity in a Malagasy songbird." Annual Meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Portland, OR (5–8 August).

INVITED SEMINARS

April 2012 Biology Seminar Series, Northeastern Illinois University

BROWN BAG TALKS

2010–2011 Pritzker Laboratory meeting, Field Museum of Natural History
2007, 2009, 2011 Darwinian Student Symposium, University of Chicago

OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

- August 2010–present Periodic participation in Talk to the Scientist Hour, DNA Discovery Center and Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution, Field Museum of Natural History
- December 2011 Featured Scientist of the Month, DNA Discovery Center and Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution, Field Museum of Natural History
- October 2011 Instructor, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Writing Workshop, University of Chicago Graduate Student Affairs
- November 2010 Panelist, *Plan Ahead and Get in Shape*, Workshop on Financial Planning and Time Management, University of Chicago Graduate Student Affairs
- September 2010 Moderator, *Making the Grade & Getting Paid*, Breakout Session, University of Chicago Graduate Student Affairs
- September 2010 Bird Walk Leader, Chicago Parks District Volunteer Steward Program, Rainbow Beach Park
- December 2009 Presenter, Annual Dinner of the Field Museum of Natural History’s Council on Africa
- May 2009 Survey Team Leader, National Geographic Society and National Park Service BioBlitz, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- March 2009 Presenter, Field Museum of Natural History Members’ Night
- August 2008 Presenter, Field Museum of Natural History Education Department’s participation in the Chicago Public Schools High School Transformation Project
- March 2007 Judge, Citywide Chicago Public Schools Student Science Fair
- January 2007 Judge, Chicago Area 25 High School Science Fair

GRANTS & AWARDS

Grants

- Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund, American Museum of Natural History – 2012 (\$1132)
- North American Ornithological Conference Student Travel Award – 2012 (\$300)
- University of Chicago, Committee on Evolutionary Biology Hinds Fund Grant – 2011 (\$900)
- Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research – 2011 (\$1,000)
- University of Chicago, Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship – 2011 (\$400)
- American Ornithologists’ Union, Student Research Award – 2010 (\$2,000)
- American Society of Naturalists, Student Travel Award – 2010 (\$500)
- University of Chicago, Biological Sciences Division Travel Award – 2010 (\$500)
- Field Museum of Natural History, Council on Africa Research Grant – 2009 (\$5,000)
- University of Chicago, Committee on Evolutionary Biology Hinds Fund Grant – 2009 (\$1,500)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow Travel Grant – 2009 (\$1,000)

Fellowships & Awards

- American Ornithologists’ Union’s Nellie Johnson Barody Student Presentation Award (2012)
- U.S. Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship (2010–2012)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2007–10)

Student Membership Award, American Ornithologists' Union (2007)
Divisional Fellowship, Biological Sciences Division, University of Chicago (2006–2012)
Outstanding Undergraduate, Texas A&M Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science (2006)
Outstanding Graduating Senior, Gamma Sigma Delta (2006)
Outstanding Student Award and Colin Caruthers Memorial Scholarship, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2006)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Student Affairs Committee, American Ornithologists' Union (2008–2012)
Coordinator, American Ornithologists' Union Student Quiz Bowl (2008–2012)
Environmental Chair, The Wildlife Society – Texas A&M University Chapter (2005–06)
President, Society for Conservation Biology – Texas A&M University Chapter (2005–06)
Vice-President, Society for Conservation Biology – Texas A&M University Chapter (2004–05)
Coordinator, Society for Conservation Biology Brazos Valley BioBlitz (2005)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Ornithologists' Union
American Society of Naturalists
Cooper Ornithological Society
Society for the Study of Evolution
Wilson Ornithological Society