

# Chris O'Brien

## CONTACT:

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## EDUCATION:

B.S., Zoology, Cum Laude, with Research Honors, May 1996. Northern Arizona University.

Ph.D. program, University of Arizona. Currently enrolled.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

**Graduate research assistant** (Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, University of Arizona). *Aug 2003 – present*. Ph.D. program. I moved to UA with my graduate advisor in 2003.

**Graduate research assistant** (Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *Aug. 2002 – Aug. 2003*. Ph.D. program.

**Database management** (United States Geologic Survey, Biological Resources Division, Colorado Plateau Field station) *Feb.-August 2002*. Organized and managed a 5-year data set and converted from Fox-pro to Microsoft Access. Supervised data entry personnel, conducted data queries, and analyzed data.

**Research Aid** (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, Marine Science Center, University of California Santa Barbara) *June-August 2001*. Surveyed backcountry alpine lakes by backpacking. Measured physical parameters and estimated populations of amphibians and fishes.

**Research specialist I** (Classified Staff, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *April 2000-Jan 2001*. Conducted aquatic biology studies in Grand Canyon National Park. Organized and lead collecting trips, supervised staff and volunteers, analyzed data and assisted in preparation of reports and manuscripts.

**Field Research Assistant** (United States Geologic Survey, Biological Resources Division, Colorado Plateau Field Station) *March-Oct. 1998 and March-Dec. 1999*. Crew leader on various ornithological studies in AZ, UT, and NW. Mexico. Mist-netted passerines, affixed radio transmitters, conducted surveys for endangered bird species.

**Research Assistant** (Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *Nov. 1998-Jan. 1999*. Conducted independent research at Montezuma Well (Montezuma Castle National Monument). Involved in experimental design, data collection (laboratory and field) and analyzed data and prepared manuscript.

**Research Assistant** (Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *Feb 1999*. Assisted two researchers with fieldwork at a long-term mountain rainforest site in Australia. Live-trapped and marked small mammals, tracked and documented seed caches, followed individual seedlings and entered data.

**Research Specialist I** (Classified Staff, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *March, April 1996 and Sept. 1996-Dec. 1997*. Assisted with aquatic biology studies in Grand Canyon National Park. Assisted with two-week collection trips, supervised volunteers, sorted samples in the laboratory, assisted with data analysis and preparation of reports and manuscripts.

**Laboratory Technician** (Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University) *May 1995-Feb. 1996* Assisted with study investigating role of leaf chemistry on

macroinvertebrate communities. Sorted invertebrate samples, prepared of leaf samples, and assisted with field work.

**Research Assistant** (Northern Arizona University, Department of Forestry) *May-Aug. 1994.*

Assisted with a study measuring habitat use of Northern Goshawks. Trapped small mammals, radio tagged and followed Northern Goshawks, conducted nest searches, vegetation surveys, and songbird point-counts.

**Biological Research Aid** (Museum of Northern Arizona) *Sept. 1993-April 1994 and Sept.*

*1994-May 1995* Assisted in preparation of museum study skins, bones and preserved specimens. Cataloged and documented new accessions, and maintained existing collections.

**Experimental Biological Aid** (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) *May-Sept. 1992 and June-Aug 1993.* Conducted quantitative stream surveys and electro-shocking of trout species of concern in a remote setting.

**Biological Field Research Technician** (Oregon Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Oregon State University) *May-Aug. 1991.* Assisted with range of field studies in John Day basin in eastern Oregon. Conducted stream surveys, electro-fishing, algal collections, and fish observations.

#### **PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES:**

Shannon, Joseph P, D. W. Blinn, T. McKinney, E. P. Benenati, K. P. Wilson and C. O'Brien. 2001. Aquatic food base response to the 1996 test flood below Glen Canyon Dam, Colorado River, Arizona. *Ecological Applications* **11**: 672-685.

Blinn, D.W., J.P. Shannon, K.P. Wilson, C. O'Brien, and P.L. Benenati. 1999. Response of benthos and organic drift to a controlled flood. In, *The Controlled Flood in Grand Canyon*, Geophysical Monographs **110**: 257-291.

O'Brien, C. and D.W. Blinn. 1999. The endemic springsnail, *Pyrgulopsis montezumensis*, in a high CO<sub>2</sub> environment: Importance of extreme chemical habitats as refugia. *Freshwater Biology*. **42**: 1-10.

#### **ORAL PRESENTATIONS/POSTERS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS:**

Ecton, K., C. van Riper III, C. O'Brien, and L. McGrath. 2003. Rethinking avian response to tamarisk: Positive use of intermediate levels of Tamarisk suggests a threshold. 7th Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau, Flagstaff Arizona.

O'Brien, C., K. Ecton, J. K. Bailey, and T. G. Whitham. 2003. Plant mortality affects stand structure and community composition along an elevational gradient. 7th Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau, Flagstaff Arizona.

O'Brien, C., D. W. Blinn, and C. van Riper III. 2003. Parasite alteration of host behavior: Do trade-offs occur? Annual meeting, Southwestern Association of Biologists. Portal, Arizona.

O'Brien, C., C. van Riper III, and D. W. Blinn. 2004. Parasites and altered host behavior: Predation by non-host predators? (poster). Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Cooper Ornithological Society  
American Ornithological Society  
Ecological Society of America

**AWARDS:**

Silliman Memorial Research Award, University of Arizona- 2004

School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, School of Natural Resources, Tuition and Registration  
Scholarship. 2004-2005.