

Max Roberts

PhD Student

School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona

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Education

University of Arizona (U of A) Fall 2025 – Present
PhD Natural Resources (Advisor: Dr. Javan Bauder)

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) Fall 2023 – Summer 2025
M.S. Biological Sciences, Cumulative GPA of 3.782 (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

Teaching Associate – U of A

August 2025 – Present (~20 hours per week)

- Teach lab courses on wildlife conservation and management as well as herpetology

Rattlesnake Relocation Subcontractor – Central Coast Snake Services (CCSS)

May 2024 – June 2025 (Unpredictable hours)

- Provide free rattlesnake relocations on call for San Luis Obispo County, CA
- Receive calls and contact trained volunteers to facilitate rattlesnake relocations

Teaching Associate – Biological Sciences, Cal Poly

September 2023 – June 2025 (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)

- 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

Conservation Committee Member – Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR)

January 2026 – Present

- Assist in drafting of letters advocating for amphibian and reptile conservation

INaturalist User – INaturalist.org

August 2017 – Present (Over 28,000 observations)

- Upload data of my wildlife observations to community science databases

Graduate Student – PERL, Cal Poly

September 2023 – August 2025 (~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

MBBF Trip Leader – Morro Bay Bird Festival

January 16th – 20th, 2025

- Planned out and led bird watching and birding day trips for festival attendees

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 layers

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
- 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 at Arroyo Quemado – 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

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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Presentations

2025 **“Investigating the impacts of weather patterns on behavioral homeostasis in Prairie Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*)”**

JMIH – July 11th, 2025

“Spying on sunbathers: Investigating environmental tradeoffs in rattlesnake behavior”

Central Coast Biological Society monthly meeting – April 7th, 2025

“Investigating the impacts of weather patterns on Prairie Rattlesnake behavioral homeostasis”

HerpFest – February 8th, 2025

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

- 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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Posters

- 2025** **M. Roberts**, O. Bachhuber, R. Ibrahim, R. Dunton, S. Boback, E. Taylor. Resting ventilation patterns in wild Prairie Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*). Presented at JMIH and Biology of Pitvipers conferences.
- O. Bachhuber, **M. Roberts**, J. Turkstra, A. Bigelow-Gee, R. Coleman, L. Alonso Martinez, J. Nation, E. Taylor. RattleEd: Improving perceptions of rattlesnakes in elementary classrooms. Presented at JMIH and Biology of Pitvipers conferences.
- 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 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.
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Papers and Manuscripts

- 2025** O. Bachhuber & **M. Roberts**, R. Singer, D. Brewster, R. Brewster, K. Dunham, S. Boback, E. Taylor. 2025. Using livestreaming technology to connect the public with secretive and maligned animals. *Frontiers in Amphibian and Reptile Science* 3, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/famrs.2025.1599382>

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. 2022. 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>

Grants and Fellowships

2026 - Natural Resources Donor Fund Scholarship, U of A – **\$1,000**
- Graduate College ReaP Grant, U of A – **\$1,500**

2025 - Graduate College Fellowship, U of A – **\$2,500**
- Graduate Conference Award, Cal Poly – **\$500**

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**

Society Memberships

2026 – Present Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society
The Wildlife Society

2025 – Present Tucson Herpetological Society

2024 – Present American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles
Herpetologist League

2024 – 2025 California Central Coast chapter of The Wildlife Society

2013 – 2023 Southwestern Herpetologist Society

Digital Applications

Microsoft Office Suite

Slack

Program R (analyses and making figures)

ArcGIS Pro

Mobile Mapper

INaturalist, HerpMapper, and EBird

Adobe Photoshop
