

RYAN J. ALMEIDA

Visiting Assistant Professor
Hamilton College
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Rutgers University 2023
Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution
Advisor: Julie L. Lockwood

B.Sc., Davidson College 2018
High Honors in Biology, *cum laude*, Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Studies
Advisor: Kevin G. Smith

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies; Hamilton College 2023-Present
Graduate Researcher; Rutgers University 2019-2023
Research Technician; Davidson College 2018-2019

RESEARCH

Publications

Key: **bold** = self, [†] = Undergraduate mentee

Peer Reviewed

5. Scott, E.V., **Almeida, R.J.**, McKlin, S., Lippert, A. L., Clary, J., Vargas, C., Hidell, W., Wadgyar, S., and K.G. Smith. 2023. *Accepted*. Habitat loss and simplification lower arthropod richness but not diversity. *Ecosphere*.
4. **Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. 2023. Multiple co-occurring bioeconomic drivers of overexploitation can accelerate rare species extinction risk. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 60: 754-763*
***Editor's Choice, May 2023 Issue**
3. **Almeida, R.J.**, Berro, A.A.G., Lippert, A.L, Clary, D.J., McKlin, S., Scott, E.V., and K.G. Smith. 2021. Selective extinctions resulting from random habitat destruction lead to under-estimates of local and regional biodiversity loss in a manipulative field experiment. *Global Change Biology*. 27 (4): 793-803.

2. Seagle, M.P., Vierling, M.R., **Almeida, R.J.**, Clary, D.J., Hiddell, W., Scott, E.V., Vargas, C., and K.G. Smith. 2021. Low abundance of three tick species in the Piedmont of North Carolina. *Journal of Medical Entomology*. 58 (1): 489-492.
1. Smith, K.G. and **R.J. Almeida**. 2020. When are extinctions simply bad luck? Rarefaction as a conceptual framework for disentangling stochastic and selective extinctions. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 57: 101-110.

In Review, Revision, or Pre-submission

Key: R = Review or revision, P = Pre-submission with full manuscript available upon request

- 3R. Wright, J., **Almeida, R.J.**, Gray, M., Bletz, M., Lockwood, J., Masecar, S., Piovio-Scott, J., Warwick, A., & N. Fefferman. *Under review*. Surveillance strategies for identifying pathogen outbreaks in an amphibian trade network. *Ecology*.
- 2P. **Almeida, R.J.**, Hyde, M.C.⁺, & J.L. Lockwood. *Pre-submission*. How do we identify Anthropogenic Allee Effects in the wildlife trade? To be submitted to *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*.
- 1R. **Almeida, R.J.**, Mazza, A.N.⁺, & J.L. Lockwood. *Under review*. Does fortune follow function? Exploring the functional trait composition of the global songbird trade. *People and Nature*.

Non-Peer Review

Almeida, R.J., Biro, E.G., Woods, L.M., and K.G. Smith. 2017. *Pre-print*. Species abundance plays a dominant role in local and regional extinctions in freshwater communities and allows the identification of selective extinctions. *bioRxiv*.

Select Presentations

Invited Seminars

- Almeida, R.J.** Causes and consequences of overexploitation in the wildlife trade. Invited seminar, Montclair State University. Fall 2023.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., & J.L. Lockwood. The tragedy of the uncommon: Predicting when the commercial wildlife trade threatens rare species with extinction. Invited seminar, Hamilton College. April 2023.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., & J.L. Lockwood. The tragedy of the uncommon: Predicting when the commercial wildlife trade threatens rare species with extinction. Invited seminar, La Salle University. November 2022.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. The tragedy of the uncommon: Predicting when the commercial wildlife trade threatens rare species with extinction. Invited seminar, Brookdale Community College. April 2022.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. The Tragedy of the Uncommon: Assessing the Overexploitation of Rare Species due to Wildlife Trade. Invited seminar, the College of New Jersey. October 2020.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. The Tragedy of the Uncommon: Assessing the Overexploitation of Rare Species due to Wildlife Trade. Invited presentation, Drongos Conservation Meeting, Princeton University. April 2020.

Conference presentations

- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. Assessing the dual impact of market feedbacks and harvest strategy on the overexploitation of a declining pangolin species. Contributed Oral Session. Ecological Society of America. August 2022.
- Almeida, R.J.**, Bonachela, J.A., and J.L. Lockwood. The Tragedy of the Uncommon: Assessing the Overexploitation of Rare Species due to Wildlife Trade. Oral Presentation. GREBE Symposium, University of Pennsylvania. May 2021.
- Almeida, R.J.** and K.G. Smith. A field experiment on the importance of species abundance and patch occupancy to extinction risk from habitat loss in a terrestrial arthropod system. Contributed Oral Session. Ecological Society of America. August 2018.
- Almeida, R.J.** and KG Smith. The Importance of Species Abundance to Local Extinction Caused by Habitat Loss. Oral Presentation. Association of Southeastern Biologists. March 2018.

Public thesis defenses

- Almeida, R.J.** Overexploitation in the Wildlife Trade: Causes and Consequences. Dissertation Defense, Rutgers University Graduate Program in Ecology & Evolution. July 2023.
- Almeida, R.J.** Rarity, Random Chance, and Extinction Risk: Studying Biodiversity Loss Using Novel Methods. Oral presentation. Honors Thesis Defense, Davidson College Biology Department. April 2018.

Grants and Fellowships

School for Graduate Studies Travel Award, Rutgers University (\$1000)	2022
Ecology & Evolution Travel Award; Rutgers University (\$210)	2022
EOAS Graduate Fellowship; Rutgers University (\$59,208)	2020-2022
Buell Award; Rutgers University (\$1,500)	2021
SEBS Excellence Fellowship; Rutgers University (\$30,000)	2019-2020
Davidson Research Initiative Fellowship; Davidson College (\$7,000)	2017

Awards and Honors

Best Presentation, Ecology Session; GREBE Symposium	2021
NSF GRFP Honorable Mention; National Science Foundation	2021
High Honors in Biology; Davidson College	2018
Sigma Xi Excellence in Research Award; Davidson College	2018

Working Groups & Professional Societies

Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles	2023-Present
Ecological Society of America	2017-Present
βββ Biological Honors Society	2017-Present

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Hamilton College

ENVST-110: Introduction to Environmental Studies	2023-2024
ENVST-206: Introduction to Environmental Data	2023-2024
ENVST-300: Global Wildlife Trade	2024

Rutgers University

11:216:441: "Animal Behavior"	2022-2023
11:216:104: "Topics in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources"	2021

Course Contributor

Key: A = led 1+ class sessions, B = led coaching sessions, C = grader, D = lab assistant, E = curricular development

Rutgers University

11:628:311: "How to Build a Habitable Planet" ^E	2023
11:216:104: "Topics in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources" ^{ACE}	2019-2022
11:216:499 "Senior Capstone" ^{ABC}	2022
11:216:486: "Principles of Evolution" ^{BC}	2021

Davidson College

BIO356: "Diversity and Extinction Analysis" ^A	2019
BIO227: "Conservation Biology and Biodiversity" ^D	2019
BIO114: "Integrating Concepts in Biology II" ^D	2018

Mentored Students

**Mentored students were supervised for 1+ semester of independent research*

J. Chan, Hamilton College	2023
S. Schick, GH Cook Honors Thesis, Rutgers University	2023
E. Gandy, RISE Program, Kean University	2022
A. Mazza, Rutgers University	2022
M.C. Hyde, Princeton University	2021
C. Nielsen, Rutgers University	2020
P. Holman, Rutgers University	2020

Professional Development

Rutgers SGS Workshop: "Effective Mentoring of Undergraduates"	2023
- Active learning workshop to teach tools and skills to better mentor undergraduate students in a research setting	
TAP 16:186:856: "Designing Your Own Course"	2022
- Semester long course centered on custom curricular design and pedagogical practices	

EcoGSA Workshop: “Fostering Inclusion in a Diverse Classroom” 2019

- Graduate student-led workshop focused on best practices for maintaining an inclusive and equitable learning environment in the classroom

Davidson FIRST Inclusive Teaching Series 2019

- Monthly workshop designed to advise faculty on best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom

Miscellaneous

Peer Tutor, Davidson College 2016-2018

- Tutored students in general biology, ecology, statistics, environmental science, and genetics

Summer Intern, S.E.T. School of MetroWest 2015

- Designed and taught science lessons to children ages 7-12 during summer program

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Peer Reviewer

**Superscript denotes number of articles reviewed for journal*

Global Change Biology², Neobiota¹, Landscape Ecology¹ 2020-Present

University Service

Rutgers University

E&E Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee 2020-Present

- Coordinated with graduate students, postdoctoral associates, faculty, and staff to formulate recommendations towards strengthening to the program’s commitment to DEI

E&E Graduate Student Association (EcoGSA) 2020-Present

Student Representative

- Served as graduate student representative to the department, attended appropriate faculty meetings, coordinated first year student peer mentorship program, conducted annual “climate survey” assessing state of professional relationships among students and mentors

Communications Officer

- Coordinated official EcoGSA communications, maintained EcoGSA website and social media presence

E&E Code of Conduct Committee 2021

Committee Leader

- Developed a set of [community standards](#) for the graduate program

Extramural Service

Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Program 2022-2023

- Led sessions on local bird identification and ecology for teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds

IUCN Sustainable Use & Livelihood Committee (SULi)

2021

- Contributed to public outreach through social media (Twitter & Facebook)

Davidson College Eco-Team

2016-2018

Club Leader

- Organized and led science enrichment activities for third grade classes 1-2 times a week