

# Elizabeth C Craig

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## Education

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- 2008-2015 **Ph.D., Cornell University**, Zoology and Wildlife Conservation  
Dissertation: Stable isotope investigations of foraging ecology: Implications for colonial waterbird conservation and management. Advisor: Dr. Paul Curtis.
- 2003-2007 **B.A., Columbia University**, Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology  
*Summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa

## Publications

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### Peer Reviewed Publications

- In prep **Craig, E.**, P. Curtis, and D. Moore. A continental divide in migratory routes of Common Terns in the Americas. (Target journal: Auk).
- In review **Craig, E.**, T. King, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. Seasonal interactions play a limited role in Double-crested Cormorant life history.
- In press **Craig, E.**, S. Elbin, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2015. Identifying important foraging habitats for colonial waterbirds in an urban estuary: A stable isotope approach. *Waterbirds* 38:330-338.
- 2015 **Craig, E.**, T. King, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2015. Aquaculture depredation by Double-crested Cormorants breeding in eastern North America. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Early view online.
- 2015 **Craig, E.**, B. Dorr, K. Hanson-Dorr, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2015. Isotopic discrimination in the Double-crested Cormorant. *PLOS ONE* 10:e0140946.
- 2012 **Craig, E.**, S. Elbin, J. Danoff-Burg, and M. Palmer. 2012. Impacts of Double-crested Cormorants and other colonial waterbirds on plant and arthropod communities on islands in an urban estuary. *Waterbirds* 35:4-12.
- 2009 Xu, C. Y., K. Griffin, J. Blazier, **E. Craig**, et al. 2009. The growth response of *Alternanthera philoxeroides* in a simulated post-combustion emission with ultrahigh [CO<sub>2</sub>] and acidic pollutants. *Environmental Pollution* 157:2118-2125.

### Conservation Reports

- 2009-2015\* **Craig, E.**, and P. Curtis. Common Terns of Oneida Lake, NY: Annual population status and management report. Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY. **\*7 reports**
- 2008-2013\* **Craig, E.** Harbor Herons Project annual survey report. NYC Audubon, NY, NY. **\*6 reports**

## Honors and Awards

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- 2015 **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award**, Cornell Core Biology Program
- 2012 **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award**, Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources
- 2011 **Student Paper Award**, Waterbird Society
- 2007 **Hydrolab Best Student Paper Award**, International Association of Great Lakes Research
- 2007 **Departmental prize for best thesis and academic achievement**, Columbia University

## Research Grants and Fellowships

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2014-2018	<b>Author / Co-PI</b> – New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Grant	\$90,000
2010-2015	<b>Author / PI</b> – Six Cornell Research and Travel Grants	\$16,865
2010	<b>Author / Co-PI</b> – USDA/Berryman Institute Graduate Fellowship	\$35,150
2010	<b>Author / PI</b> – Garden Club of America, Caroline Thorn Kissel Scholarship	\$2,000
2010	<b>Author / PI</b> – Hudson River Foundation, Tibor T. Polgar Fellowship	\$5,000
2010	<b>Author / PI</b> – Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholarship	\$4,000
2008-2010	Cornell Graduate Fellowship and Presidential Life Sciences Fellowship	\$94,314

## Relevant Professional Experience

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2015	<b>Postdoctoral Associate</b> , Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University Research the conservation management of Common Terns on Oneida Lake, NY through studies of demography (mark-recapture analysis in Program MARK), migration (using light-level geolocation), and adaptive management of nesting habitat.
2009-2015	<b>Co-PI</b> , Cornell Common Tern Conservation Program Manage terns and other waterbirds on Oneida Lake, supervise interns and volunteers, and report to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Co-PI: Dr. Paul Curtis.
2008-2013	<b>Research Associate and Harbor Herons Survey Leader</b> , NYC Audubon Society Led nesting surveys and coordinated population studies of colonial waterbirds in NYC, managed conservation programs, planned meetings, and wrote proposals and reports.
2009-2012	<b>Avian Specimen Preparator</b> , Cornell Museum of Vertebrates
2009	<b>Graduate Intern</b> , Cornell Integrated Deer Research and Management Program Trapped, radio tracked, and observed deer in the Cornell area. PI: Dr. Paul Curtis.
2008	<b>Graduate Intern</b> , Cornell Anatomic Pathology Introduction to avian histopathology. PI: Dr. Elizabeth Buckles.
2007-2008	<b>Program Assistant</b> , NY Bioscape Initiative, Wildlife Trust Provided logistical support, planned meetings, and wrote reports, scientific papers, and conservation plans under Dr. Susan Elbin.
2003-2008	<b>Wild Bird Rehabilitation Summer Staff</b> , The Raptor Trust, Millington, NJ
2006	<b>Animal Handler</b> , Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular. Just for the fun of it!
2004-2005	<b>Undergraduate Research Assistant</b> , Plant Ecophysiology, Columbia University Researched the effects of elevated temperature and CO <sub>2</sub> on the physiology and metabolism of alligator weed with Dr. Kevin Griffin.

## Teaching Experience

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2014-2015	<b>Guest Lecturer for Vertebrates</b> : Structure, Function, and Evolution, and Principles and Practices of Applied Wildlife Science, Cornell University.
2015	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> : Ecology and the Environment with Drs. Bob Howarth and Sunny Power, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University.
2014	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> : Vertebrates: Structure, Function, and Evolution with Dr. Betty McGuire, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University.

- 2013      **Co-lecturer:** Applied Population Ecology with Dr. Evan Cooch, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University.
- 2013      **Teaching Assistant:** Nature and Culture with Dr. Jim Tantillo, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University.
- 2011-2012      **Teaching Assistant:** Applied Population Ecology with Dr. Evan Cooch, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University.
- 2012      **Teaching Assistant:** Introductory Biology, Individualized Instruction with Dr. Darlene Campbell, Dept. of Biology, Cornell University.
- 2008      **Teaching Assistant:** Ornithology with Dr. Susan Elbin, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University.

## Invited Speaker Seminars

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- 2012      *You are what you eat... plus a few per mil. Diet tissue fractionation in the Double-crested Cormorant.* Webinar for all USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center field stations (WS NWRC). Recorded at Mississippi State.
- 2012      *You are what you eat: Colonial waterbird foraging ecology.* Cornell Wildlife Society Chapter.
- 2012      *Colonial waterbirds: breeding and foraging ecology.* Cornell Biological Field Station.
- 2010      *Using stable isotopes to study migratory, foraging, and breeding behaviors in the Double-crested Cormorant.* USDA/APHIS WS NWRC, Mississippi State.
- 2010      *Colonial waterbirds and stable isotope ecology in urban waterways and beyond.* Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- 2010      *Stable isotopes and colonial waterbird ecology.* Cornell Biogeochemistry and Environmental Biocomplexity program.
- 2009      *Colonial waterbirds in NY Harbor: Conservation, monitoring, and research.* Cornell Wildlife Society Chapter.

## Selected Conference Presentations (26 total)

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- 2015\*      Rodriguez, R., **E. Craig**, P. Curtis, and C. Sun. 2015. Population dynamics of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) at Oneida Lake, NY. Poster presentation in The Ecological Society of America Meeting. Baltimore, MD. \*Undergraduate intern.
- 2014      **Craig, E.**, T. King, S. Elbin, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2014. Seasonal interactions play a limited role in cormorant life history. Waterbirds Meeting. La Paz, Mexico.
- 2013\*      Mortelliti, L., P. Curtis, and **E. Craig**. 2013. One good tern deserves another: Do artificial nesting platforms provide suitable nesting habitat for Common Terns? Poster presentation in The Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY. \*Undergraduate intern and winner of the Best Student Poster Award.
- 2012\*      Mortelliti, L., P. Curtis, and **E. Craig**. 2012. One good tern deserves another: Do artificial nesting platforms provide suitable nesting habitat for Common Terns? Poster presentation in Bird Conservation Conference in the Northeast. Plymouth, MA. \*Undergraduate intern.
- 2012      **Craig, E.**, D.T. King, S. Elbin, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2012. Do winter foraging decisions affect breeding condition of Double-crested Cormorants? Exploring seasonal interactions in a migratory waterbird. North American Ornithological Council. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

- 2012 **Craig, E.**, B. Dorr, K. Hanson-Dorr, C. Hebert, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2012. You are what you eat... plus a few per mil. Diet tissue fractionation in the Double-crested Cormorant. The Northeast Natural History Conference. Syracuse, NY.
- 2011\* **Craig, E.**, B. Dorr, K. Hanson-Dorr, C. Hebert, J. Sparks, and P. Curtis. 2011. You are what you eat... plus a few per mil: Diet-tissue fractionation in the Double-crested Cormorant. Waterbirds Society Meeting. Anapolis, MD.  
\*Winner of the Student Paper Award.
- 2010 **Craig, E.**, and S. B. Elbin. 2010. Monitoring stable isotopes in waterbirds to study foraging ecology in the NY Harbor. Poster presentation in Bird Conservation Conference in the Northeast, Plymouth, MA.
- 2009 **Craig, E.**, A. Bernick, and S. Elbin. 2009. NYC Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: Colonial Waterbird Population Trends in the NY/NJ Harbor, 1986-2009. Waterbirds Society Meeting. Cape May, NJ.
- 2008 **Craig, E.**, M. Palmer, K. Griffin, and S. Elbin. 2008. It's not easy being green: a comparative growth study of native saplings in two mixed-species colonies. Proceedings of the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Colonial Waterbirds Working Group. Lyndhurst, NJ.
- 2007\* **Craig, E.**, S. Elbin, J. Danoff-Burg, and M. Palmer. 2007. Impacts of Double-crested Cormorants on NY Harbor vegetation and arthropods. International Association of Great Lakes Research. Penn State University, University Park, PA.  
\*Winner of the Hydrolab Best Student Paper Award.
- 2006 **Craig, E.** 2006. Impacts of Double-crested Cormorants on NY Harbor Island Habitats. Proceedings of the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Colonial Waterbirds Working Group. Staten Island, NY.

## Service and Leadership

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- 2011-2015 **Waterbird Society, elected Executive Council member** (2015-2017) serving on Membership and Student Affairs committees, and as student paper evaluator, silent auction coordinator, and student mentor.
- 2011-2015 **Zoology and Wildlife Conservation Graduate Student Ambassador**, Biological and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 2011-2015 **Eliminate Poverty NOW Board Member**, helping people in Africa, especially women, lift themselves out of poverty through education and economic opportunity.
- 2010-2012 **Enviro-Mentor Co-founder and Chairperson**, "Connecting Cornell graduate students with undergraduates in environmental science."
- 2011 **Search Committee Member** for new Director of Conservation at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with professorship in the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- Peer reviewer: Journal of Wildlife Management, Oikos, Auk, and Transactions of the American Fisheries Society.

## Relevant Graduate Coursework

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- 2015 Structured Decision Making and Natural Resource Management (Cornell University)
- 2013 Demographic Analysis of Wildlife Populations – Program MARK (Cornell University)
- 2011 Stable Isotopes in Ecology (University of Utah)
- 2010 Graduate Research in GIS (Cornell University)
- 2009-2010 Ecological Statistics in R (two semesters, Cornell University)

## Professional Societies

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Greater NY/NJ Colonial Waterbirds Working Group, Lower Great Lakes Colonial Waterbird Working Group, North American Ornithological Council, and The Waterbirds Society.

## Featured in Popular Media

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- 2015 Greenspan, J. 2015 *Is New York City tern-ing Into a haven for seabirds?* Audubon in Action, National Audubon Society. ([www.audubon.org/news/is-new-york-city-tern-ing-haven-seabirds](http://www.audubon.org/news/is-new-york-city-tern-ing-haven-seabirds)).
- 2012 Timm, B. 2012. *Research Associate, Elizabeth Craig*. The Faces of New York City Audubon, NYC Audubon Society ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaqR6\\_ashvM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaqR6_ashvM)).
- 2012 Figura, D. 2012. *Team continues longstanding research on birds native to Oneida Lake*. Syracuse Post Standard ([www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/team\\_continues\\_longstanding\\_re.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/team_continues_longstanding_re.html)).
- 2011 Carse, K. 2011. *A mile off Staten Island's East Shore, Hoffman Island is for the birds*. Staten Island Advance ([www.silive.com/eastshore/index.ssf/2011/06/hoffman\\_island\\_a\\_mile\\_off\\_stat.html](http://www.silive.com/eastshore/index.ssf/2011/06/hoffman_island_a_mile_off_stat.html)).
- 2010 Alonso, N. 2010. *Elizabeth Craig '07 monitors bird breeding activity*. Columbia College Today ([www.college.columbia.edu/cct/sep\\_oct10/alumni\\_profiles3](http://www.college.columbia.edu/cct/sep_oct10/alumni_profiles3)).
- 2009 Greenberg, D., and N. Miller. 2009. *North Brother Island Bird Sanctuary*. Episode of The City Concealed, Channel Thirteen, PBS ([watch.thirteen.org/video/1174206896](http://watch.thirteen.org/video/1174206896)).

## References

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### **Dr. Susan Elbin**

Employer/research mentor  
NYC Audubon Society  
[Selbin@nycaudubon.org](mailto:Selbin@nycaudubon.org)

### **Dr. Paul Curtis**

Graduate advisor  
Cornell University  
[Pdc1@cornell.edu](mailto:Pdc1@cornell.edu)

### **Dr. Evan Cooch**

Teaching mentor  
Cornell University  
[Evan.cooch@cornell.edu](mailto:Evan.cooch@cornell.edu)