

# CINDY COSSET

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## EDUCATION

- Oct 2016 – Oct 2020 **PhD in Tropical Ecology and Conservation, University of Sheffield**  
Supervisors: Dr David Edwards (University of Sheffield) & Dr James Gilroy (University of East Anglia)
- Sept 2012 – June 2016 **MBiolSci Zoology (1<sup>st</sup> class), University of Sheffield**
- Developed a whole range of skills such as laboratory skills, teamwork, communication skills, analytical skills, data analysis and report writing through laboratory sessions, group projects, presentations and research assignments.
  - Modules include evolution; animal diversity; population and community ecology; animal behaviour; conservation principles; data analysis; GIS; laboratory and field practicals.
  - Fourth Year Dissertation: “The effects of selective logging on the responses of ecological communities.” Supervisor: Dr David Edwards. Grade: 80%.
- Jan 2011 – June 2012 **A levels, Taylor’s College (Malaysia)**  
Biology (A\*), Chemistry (A\*), Physics (A), Mathematics (A\*)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2018 **Botanical Research Expedition – Oman Botanic Garden, Oman.**  
Participated in an expedition conducting research on the endangered Arabian Dragon’s Blood tree (*Dracaena serrulata*), in collaboration with the Oman Botanic Gardens, Oman Ministry of Environment, Oman Office of Conservation of the Environment and Environmental Society of Oman. The aim of this project was: (1) to map the distribution and reassess the conservation status of *Dracaena serrulata*; and (2) to develop the capacity of the above-mentioned stakeholders to continue with the long-term management of Oman’s natural environment.
- 2015 – 2016 **Fourth Year Research Project: “The Effects of Rehabilitating Logged Tropical Forests on Avian Phylogenetic and Functional Diversity”. (Grade: 80%)**
- *Supervisor:* Dr David Edwards.
  - *Responsibilities:* Experimental design; Data collection; Building trait matrices; Extracting phylogenetic and functional diversity metrics using *picante* and *FD* package in R; Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA); Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) analysis; Statistical modelling using General Linear Models, Generalized Linear Models, Linear Mixed Effects Models and Generalized Linear Mixed Effects Models; Model selection using AIC.
  - *Summary:* Rehabilitation tends to reduce the phylogenetic diversity of the avian community, leaving behind a more closely related assemblage. The functional strategies of the overall bird community in rehabilitated forests were more similar to logged forests than primary forests; however, the functional strategies in the understorey bird community were unaffected. Overall, rehabilitation had minimal effects on the avian community.
- 2015 **Third Year Research Project: “Fragmentation effects on tree species richness and community composition in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest”.**

### **(Grade: 85%)**

- *Supervisor:* Dr David Edwards.
- *Responsibilities:* Experimental design; Data collection; GIS using ArcGIS; Fragment metrics extraction using FRAGSTATS; Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) analysis; Statistical modelling using Generalized Linear Models; Model selection using AICc.
- *Summary:* Fragment isolation and structural connectivity were the most important factors influencing tree species richness and community composition.

2014

### **Third Year Field Trip Project: "Does proximity to the parent tree affect the outcome of dipterocarp seeds?" (Grade: 78%)**

- *Responsibilities:* Experimental design; Data collection; Statistical modelling using General Linear Models and Generalized Linear Models.
- *Summary:* Janzen-Connell mechanisms have little effect on the seed stage of dipterocarps with other factors being more important than distance- and density-dependence.

June 2014 –  
Aug 2014;  
June 2015 –  
Aug 2015;  
June 2016

### **Field Research Assistant (Borneo Rainforest Project) – Danum Valley Field Center, Sabah, Malaysia**

Assisted Dr David Edwards, from the University of Sheffield, and Suzanne Tomassi, Vice President of the Puget Sound Bird Observatory in the U.S., on an avian research project. Responsibilities include bird mist-netting and ringing with a team of other research assistants, data management and helping to manage the project's logistics when required.

Mar 2014 –  
May 2014

### **Research Assistant – Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield**

Data collection for a study on tropical land-use change and birds conducted by Dr David Edwards, from the University of Sheffield, and Dr Umesh Srinivasan, from the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore. Responsibilities include collection of data through information extraction from an online database and sorting through them appropriately in an excel spreadsheet.

Dec 2013 –  
Jan 2014

### **Research Assistant – Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield**

Assisted Dr Karl Evans, from the University of Sheffield, to conduct preliminary field surveys of the urban avifauna in Malaysia. Responsibilities included using my bird identification skills to do a point count survey of the avifauna in each specified location.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- **Cosset, C.C.P.** & Edwards, D.P. 2017. The effects of restoring logged tropical forests on avian phylogenetic and functional diversity. *Ecological Applications* 6:1932-1945.
- **Cosset, C.C.P.**, Gilroy, J.J. & Edwards, D.P. 2018. The impacts of tropical forest disturbance on species vital rates. *Conservation Biology*

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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|-----------|--|
| 2018      | Rufford Booster Grant (£9489)(The Rufford Foundation)  |
| 2017      | Rufford Second Small Grant (£4945) (The Rufford Foundation)                                  |
| June 2016 | Rufford Small Grant (£4918) (The Rufford Foundation)   |
|           | • Borneo Rainforest Project funding  |
| June 2016 | The Sheffield Graduate Award (University of Sheffield)                                       |
| June 2016 | J.D. Jones Prize in Zoology (University of Sheffield)  |
| 2016      | Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship (Sustained Academic Achievement) (University of Sheffield) |
| 2016      | Best Society Volunteering Initiative (Sheffield University Birdwatching Society)             |

June 2015	(University of Sheffield Students' Union) Righ Scholarship (£2000) (University of Sheffield)
Feb 2015	•Borneo Rainforest Project funding Scurfield Memorial Bursary (£500) (University of Sheffield)
2015	•Borneo Rainforest Project funding Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship for Academic Achievement in the Third Year (£2000) (University of Sheffield)
2014	Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship for Academic Achievement in the Second Year (£2000) (University of Sheffield)
2013	Faculty Undergraduate Scholarship for Academic Achievement in the First Year (£2000) (University of Sheffield)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Oct 2016 - present	<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant – University of Sheffield</b> <b>•Teaching Assistant at the Department of Animal &amp; Plant Science</b> <i>Modules:</i> - R and statistics course for 1st year undergraduates. - R and statistics course for 2nd year undergraduates. - Undergraduate tropical field course for 2nd year undergraduates. - First year practical APS 135 squirrel project (demonstrator and assess presentations and project write up) <b>•Facilitator at the Faculty of Science Breaking Boundaries module for 36 first year undergraduates.</b> <i>Responsibilities:</i> Preparing and running 2 tutorial sessions for 6 tutorial groups; Assessing individual contributions.
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## **COMMITTEES**

May 2018 - present	<b>Treasurer, Sustainability Committee (University of Sheffield Students' Union)</b>
Jan 2018 - present	<b>PhD student representative, Faculty of Science Graduate School Committee (University of Sheffield)</b>
Feb 2017 - present	<b>PhD student representative, Animal and Plant Sciences Graduate Committee (University of Sheffield)</b>

## **SKILLS**

<b>Statistical Modelling</b>	<i>Competent with modelling techniques:</i> general linear models, generalized linear models, linear mixed models, generalized linear mixed models, non-metric multidimensional scaling analysis, principal component analysis, Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Akaike Information Criterion of Second Order (AICc) model selection.
<b>R</b>	<i>Packages used:</i> stats, vegan, AICcmoavg, picante, FD, BiodiversityR, multcomp, lme4, MuMIn, spdep, ggplot2, dplyr
<b>GIS</b>	Use of ArcGIS 10.1.
<b>IT</b>	Competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Regular user of the internet.
<b>Presenting Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation at the Association for Tropical Biology &amp; Conservation (ATBC) Conference 2018 (July 2018).</li> <li>• Presentation at the Graduate Symposium held in the Dept. of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield (2017).</li> <li>• Presentations of PhD work at lab meetings (2016-present)</li> <li>• Oral presentations of undergraduate work at lab meetings and 4<sup>th</sup> year Symposium.</li> </ul>
<b>Science Communication &amp; Public</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organised outreach activities for the Edwards lab with collaborations from other labs at the University of Sheffield for the outreach event 'Discovery Night' at the Dept. of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield (2017,</li> </ul>

<b>Engagement</b>	<p>2018).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate science to the public during interactive, educational and entertaining events with the Animal &amp; Plant Science Department, University of Sheffield (2015-present).</li> <li>• Outreach volunteer for Science Brainwaves at the University of Sheffield (2016).</li> <li>• Ran workshops about UK bird conservation in primary schools with the Sheffield University Bird Watching Society as part of the RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch initiative (2015-2016).</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership &amp; Mentoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking a course on Professional Skills for Research Leaders (Think Ahead, University of Sheffield) (2018-present).</li> <li>• University of Sheffield Student Mentor (2014-2016). Provide new students with support for settling into university life and their new environment.</li> <li>• President and Treasurer of the University of Sheffield Bellydance Society (2015-2016; 2013-2014).  <i>President responsibilities: Managing change; delegating tasks; overseeing the society's activities while taking responsibility for the society's affairs; motivating the committee; communicating effectively with the committee, members and external personnel; calling and chairing meetings.</i>  <i>Treasurer responsibilities: Paying invoices, keeping accounts up to date and clear, budgeting, handling all payments to the society.</i></li> <li>• Secretary and Inclusions Officer of the University of Sheffield Bird Watching Society (2015-2016).  <i>Secretary responsibilities: Organising meetings and committee election; taking minutes; managing the society's emails and administration; communicating effectively with society members, committee and external personnel.</i>  <i>Inclusion responsibilities: Ensuring that society members are given support and everyone is included; being the first point of contact for inclusion issues; working with other committee members to ensure that the society's activities have considered inclusion issues; working in confidentiality.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Mist-netting &amp; Bird ringing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking training in bird ringing in Sheffield (2014-present).</li> <li>• Conducted bird ringing and mist-netting as a research assistant for the Borneo Rainforest Project (2014-2016).</li> </ul>
<b>Remote Living &amp; Expeditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfortable living in remote areas and trained in the use of machetes for cutting mist-netting transects.</li> <li>• Participated in a botanical research expedition in Oman with the Oman Botanical Gardens (2018).</li> </ul>
<b>First Aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency First Aid at Work qualification (Emergency Response Training Ltd), valid until October 2018.</li> <li>• Outdoor First Aid qualification (ITC First), valid until November 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Language Skills</b>	English (mother language), Malay (fluent), French (basic understanding)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Oct 2016 - present	Participation in modules and events as part of the University of Sheffield Doctoral Development Programme.
Oct 2016 - present	Attending departmental seminars.
2015 - 2016	Sustainability Skills and Education Programme (University of Sheffield)
June 2013	Understanding Zooarchaeology Course I - University of Sheffield (Department of Archaeology)
June 2013	Short Course on Marine Resources - University of Sheffield (Department of Archaeology)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- British Ecological Society
- British Ornithologists' Union

- Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

## **VOLUNTEERING**

- Nov 2015 - 2016      **Alfred Denny Museum (University of Sheffield) – Volunteer**  
Research information about the museum specimens which are compiled into fact files for the museum's website. This website can then be viewed by the public when they visit the museum.
- Nov 2013 – 2016      **Friends of Holly Hagg – Volunteer**  
Volunteering with Friends of Holly Hagg in Sheffield, UK. Working with other volunteers to create a sustainable forest garden based on permaculture.
- Nov 2013      **University of Sheffield 24 Hour Volunteering Event**  
Volunteered with Friends of Holly Hagg in Sheffield. Worked with other volunteers to create a sustainable forest garden based on permaculture.
- Aug 2013      **Malaysian Nature Society Hornbill Conservation Project – Volunteer**  
This project involved living in a rainforest with basic facilities and working with a team of other volunteers to survey and collect data counts of plain-pouched hornbills in the area. It was conducted in the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex in Malaysia.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Dr. David P. Edwards**

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