

PhD position in coastal marsh ecology and management - starting August 2020

Coastal marshes are changing in response to sea-level rise, development, introduced species, and a variety of other environmental changes. These changes have consequences for both the biodiversity of coastal systems and the ecosystem services they provide. The Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP) is a collaborative endeavor involving researchers at several universities in the northeastern US. Collectively, we have been studying marshes along the US Atlantic Coast since 2010, with work in my lab group at the University of Connecticut dating back to 2002.

Currently, I seek a PhD student to join the SHARP team and investigate long-term changes in coastal marsh ecosystems and the consequences of ongoing management and restoration activities. The incoming student will be partially funded via a research assistantship, with remaining support coming from teaching assistantships. The student will be expected to use existing data sets to quantify spatial and temporal patterns in plant and bird populations, and to develop independent research on related topics of the student's choosing. In addition to joining a large group of exceptional graduate students at UConn, the successful candidate will be expected to interact closely with students, postdocs, and professors at the four other institutions that form the SHARP collaboration.

For more information about our research group, go here: <https://elphick.lab.uconn.edu/>

For more information about SHARP, go here: <https://www.tidalmarshbirds.org/>

Qualifications:

- An undergraduate degree in biology, ecology, natural resources, environmental science, or related degree program.
- A Master's degree in one of these fields or equivalent research experience.
- Strong quantitative skills, preferably including statistical training and coding experience (e.g., in R).
- Evidence of effective technical writing and a commitment to publishing peer-reviewed articles.
- Field experience in coastal or wetland ecosystems would be valuable, but is not essential.

Application procedures:

Please submit initial inquiries to chris.elphick@uconn.edu with the subject line "Coastal Ecology Graduate position", including a single pdf document containing:

- Letter detailing your interest in this opportunity, including what questions you would like to investigate, why you think our group is a good place for you to study, what relevant experience you have, and why you want to get a PhD
- CV
- Transcript (unofficial acceptable initially)
- Contact information (name, affiliation, phone, email) for 3 references

Initial review of application materials will begin on 1st November, 2019 and continue until positions are filled. After initial review, I will be in contact to arrange a phone or Skype interview with candidates who are a good fit for the position. Top candidates will need to formally apply to the EEB department at

the University of Connecticut (applications due 15 December 2019; for details, see <https://eeb.uconn.edu/information-for-prospective-eeb-graduate-students/>).

The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty and staff. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations. Our lab group strives to be a welcoming environmental to all.