

Vicens Vila-Coury

vicensvc.github.io | vv2355@columbia.edu | last updated: August 12, 2025

Education

Columbia University

New York, NY

PhD Candidate; Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology

Aug. 2022 – Present

- Advisors: Brian T. Smith, Andrés Bendesky
- Committee: Brian T. Smith, Andrés Bendesky, Deren Eaton, Peter Andolfatto, Leonardo Campagna

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

BA; Department of Biological Sciences, Biodiversity and Systematics concentration

Aug. 2018 – May 2022

- *cum laude* and *with Honors*
- Advisors: Jennifer Walsh-Emond, Irby Lovette, Alejandra Gandolfo

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. Jennifer Walsh, Shawn M. Billerman, Bronwyn G. Butcher, Vanya G. Rohwer, David P. L. Toews, Vicens Vila-Coury, and Irby J. Lovette. A complex genomic architecture underlies reproductive isolation in a North American oriole hybrid zone. *Communications Biology*, 6(1):154, February 2023

Fellowships, Grants, & Awards

RGGS Maxwell/Hanrahan Award, American Museum of Natural History (\$2,500)	2024
Student Research Grant, American Ornithological Society (\$2,000)	2024
L.J. Gormezano Memorial Fund, Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History (\$3,000)	2024
Early Systematist Award, Society of Systematic Biologists (\$1,000)	2024
Graduate Student Research Award, Society of Systematic Biologists (\$3,000)	2023
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation (>\$100,000)	2022-Present
Graduate Fellow, Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History	2022-Present
Best in Life Sciences Category, Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Spring Symposium	2022
Kathleen E. Melkonian Fund, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$5,000)	2021
Biology Honors Program, Cornell University	2021
Experiential Learning Grant, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$5,000)	2021
Experiential Learning Grant, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$5,000)	2020
K. Rupert and J. Foote Fund, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$1,400)	2019
Redheads Undergraduate Research Grant, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (\$350)	2019

Presentations & Posters

Evolution 2025, Athens, Georgia (poster)	June 2025
Polymorphic Bananaquits: Hyper local adaptation?, St. George's University (invited talk)	March 2024
Probabilistic Modeling and Machine Learning Poster Session, Columbia University (poster)	December 2023
Society of Systematic Biologists Stand-Alone Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico (poster)	January 2023
Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Spring Symposium, Cornell University (poster)	May 2022
American Ornithological Society (virtual poster)	August 2021

Specimen Collection Expeditions (†=expedition lead)

Grenada †	March-April 2025
Tehuacán, Puebla, Mexico	January 2023
Schuyler County, New York, USA	July 2019
Tompkins County, New York, USA	June 2019
Adirondacks, New York, USA	June 2019
Brewster County, Texas, USA	April 2019

Teaching Experience

TA: Ornithology (EEEEB 4140), Instructors: Chad Seewagen & Chris Nagy	Fall 2024
TA: Intermediate Statistics for Ecology and Evo. Bio. (EEEEB 4105), Instructor: Steffen Foerster	Spring 2024
“Evolution across space” in Fundamentals of Evolution (EEEEB 6110) (guest lecturer)	Fall 2023
TA: Fundamentals of Evolution (EEEEB 6110), Instructors: Deren Eaton & Daniel Hooper	Fall 2023
TA: Intro to Data Science (INFO 2950), Instructor: Matthew Wilkens	Fall 2021

Service Experience

E3B Graduate Student Council, Columbia University (PhD Student Representative)	Fall 2024-Present
Evo Supergroup, Columbia University (student organizer)	2023-Present
E3Birders, E3B Department, Columbia University (chair)	2023-Present
Student Workers of Columbia, Columbia University (E3B Department representative)	Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Undergraduate Outreach Birding Event, E3B Department, Columbia University (volunteer)	2023
Guest Judge, 8th Grade Science Presentations, Hunter’s Point Community Middle School (volunteer)	2023
Resume and CV-writing Workshop, E3B Department, Columbia University (volunteer)	2023
Frontiers of Science Outreach, E3B Department, Columbia University (presentation)	2023
Birding Club at Cornell (president)	2020 - 2021

Other Published Works

1. Vicens Vila-Coury. Ornithological literature: Better living through birding: Notes from a black man in the natural world. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 136(2):290–291, June 2024

Workshops & Trainings

SLiM Workshop, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY	2024
Society of Systematic Biologists Mentorship Program (mentor: Keith Crandall)	2024
Workshop on Molecular Evolution, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA	2024
EEB Scholar Finalist (mentor: Rosalyn Price-Waldman), Princeton University	2021

Pre-Doctoral Research Experience

Phylogenomic and demographic history of Song Sparrows, Lovette Lab, Cornell University	2021-2022
Maps Assistant, Birds of the World, Cornell Lab of Ornithology	2020-2022
Historical DNA methods development, Lovette Lab, Cornell University	2019-2022
Ornithology Collections Assistant, Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates, Cornell University	2019

Relevant Coursework

Probabilistic Modeling and Machine Learning (STCS 6701), Instructor: David Blei	Fall 2023
Fundamentals of Evolution (EEEEB 6110), Instructor: Deren Eaton	Fall 2022
Making Sense of Heritable Variation (BIOL 6560), Instructors: Peter Andolfatto & Guy Sella	Fall 2022
Model-Based Phylogenetics (ENTOM 4610), Instructor: Corrie Moreau	Spring 2022
Population Genetics (BIOMG 4810), Instructor: Philipp Messer	Spring 2022
Advanced Genetics and Genomics (BIOMG 3800), Instructor: Thomas Fox	Spring 2021
Evolutionary Genomics (BIOEE 4940), Instructor: Andrew Moeller	Fall 2020
Molecular Systematics (PLBIO 4470), Instructor: Jeffrey Doyle	Spring 2020