Karthik **Thrikkadeeri**

PhD Student, Montaño Lab

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA

rikudoukarthik@gmail.com kartrick.com GitHub ORCiD GScholar Bluesky eBird iNat

I have wide-ranging ***macroecological interests*** that have begun to lean towards systems and landscape-level thinking. Although tropical wet forests were my first love, I have grown increasingly fond of more ***open and arid ecosystems***. I am most fascinated by ***birds***, and birding is a major driver of life events. I love data, enjoy a quantitative challenge, and highly value principles of ***open science***. I am passionate about ***poetry and creative non-fiction writing***, and am also a hip-hop head prone to intense head-bopping while working on code.

Education

Degrees

PhD, Biological Sciences (ongoing)

Baton Rouge, US

Louisiana State University

2025–present

- Division: Systematics, Ecology and Evolution
- Supervisor: Flavia A Montaño-Centellas

MSc, Ecology

České Budějovice, CZ

University of South Bohemia

2019–21

- Thesis: Habitat selection in post-breeding temperate forest birds
- Supervisor: Kateřina Sam

BSc, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Zoology

Bengaluru, IN

Christ University

2016–19

Other courses

How to Record Bird Sounds

Online

Bird Academy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Jan 2026

Introduction to Remote Sensing using QGIS

Bengaluru, IN

Azim Premji University

21–25 Nov 2022

- Basic principles of remote sensing, characterising different features of land surface, generating maps with land cover statistics

eBird Essentials

Online

Bird Academy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Jan 2021

Publications

Research articles

1. N Cooper & **the BES Data and Code Hackathon Group** (2026). Data- and code-archiving in the British Ecological Society journals: Present status and recommendations for future improvements. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 17(7). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210x.70338
2. A Viswanathan, **K Thrikkadeeri**, et al. (2025). State of India's Birds 2023: A framework to leverage semi-structured citizen science for bird conservation. *Ecosphere* 16(7). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.70290
3. **K Thrikkadeeri**, …, A Viswanathan (2024). Birdwatchers piecing together *Locustella* jigsaw: Insights on the wintering distribution of the cryptic West Himalayan Bush Warbler *Locustella kashmirensis*. *Indian BIRDS* 20(3), p. 70–79.
4. **K Thrikkadeeri** & A Viswanathan (2024). Despite short-lived changes, COVID-19 pandemic had minimal large-scale impact on citizen science participation in India. *Ornithological Applications* 126(4). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithapp/duae024
5. L Schillé, …, **K Thrikkadeeri**, et al. (2024). Decomposing drivers in avian insectivory: Large-scale effects of climate, habitat and bird diversity. *Journal of Biogeography* 51(6). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14808

6. J Praveen, …, **K Thrikkadeeri**, et al. (2022). Kerala Bird Atlas 2015–20: features, outcomes and implications of a citizen-science project. *Current Science* 122(3). DOI: https://doi.org/10.18520/cs/v122/i3/298-309

Software

1. **K Thrikkadeeri** (2024). *skimmr: Working with eBird data made easy*. R package version 0.0.0.9008. URL: https://rikudoukarthik.github.io/skimmr/

Reports

1. **SoIB** (2023). *State of India's Birds, 2023: Range, trends, and conservation status*. The SoIB Partnership. Pp. 119. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11124590

Books

1. PU Antony, …, **K Thrikkadeeri**, et al. (2018). *Butterflies of Christ University Main Campus—A Pictorial Guide*. Centre for Publications, Christ University, Bangalore, India. ISBN: 978-93-82305-98-9

In pipeline

1. **K Thrikkadeeri** & A Viswanathan *(in prep.)*. No evidence at large scale for "return" of bird life in the Indian anthropause.
2. **K Thrikkadeeri**, I Freiberga, LR Jorge, K Sam *(in prep.)*. Post-breeding birds dynamically track habitat structure over the season in a Central European forest.
3. **K Thrikkadeeri**, …, G Shahabuddin *(in prep.)*. A checklist of butterflies from a land-use intensification gradient in Kumaon Himalayas.

Awards

AOS Expanding Opportunities Travel Grant

Amherst, US

American Ornithological Society

Aug 2026

- USD $1,970 in support of travel & registration for AOS 2026 conference in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA

Rector's Award

České Budějovice, CZ

University of South Bohemia

May 2021

- CZK 2,500 (~€100), for outstanding results in study

Graduate study Merit Scholarship

České Budějovice, CZ

University of South Bohemia

Oct 2020–May 2021

- CZK 1,500 (~€60) awarded per month for 10 months in second year of study
- Scholarship of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Work Experience

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, US

Graduate Assistant

Jan 2025–present

Nature Conservation Foundation

Bengaluru, IN

Senior Research Assistant

Apr 2023–Dec 2024

- SoIB 2023: Contributed to analysis, visualisation and writing for two chapters (large-scale trends, systematic monitoring) of report, and also produced website-specific outputs
- SoIB 2023: Unified various analyses into pipeline framework, and functionised/parametrised scripts and added annotations, to improve accessibility to team as well as others
- SoIB 2023: Cleaned, structured and organised GitHub repository to archive
- SoIB 2023: Contributed to editing and proofreading as well as bibliography management for the full report
- Created an R package 'skimmr' for functions used repeatedly when working with eBird data in R in the Indian context
- Created a Shiny app based on eBird API that allows the user to generate a summary of the eBirding that happened in a given administrative unit on a given date(s)
- Created a GitHub repository to collate mapping data useful for eBird data analysis in the Indian context—mostly contains open shapefiles of administrative units

Nature Conservation Foundation

Bengaluru, IN

Research Assistant

Aug 2021–Mar 2023

- Analysed the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on birdwatching and eBird data in India, and its implications for research using this data; wrote up and submitted manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal
- Established a version control (Git/GitHub) workflow for Bird Count India analyses to enable reproducibility as well as transparency
- Created a periodic analysis framework to identify and track regions in India that are most underrepresented in eBird data, in order to identify regions of priority where concerted action (strategised from these metrics) is required
- Created eBirding point maps for the country as well as for each state in India, made easily accessible to users and updated monthly
- Automated several periodically occurring data analysis tasks of Bird Count India (tracking metrics, results of challenges & birding events [post-hoc from EBD and also live summaries using eBird API and R], etc.)
- Improved eBird data quality in India by creating updated and more fine-scale (district-wise) filters for Tripura state
- Assisted birders with their queries regarding eBird data and how to analyse it for their own studies

Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences
České Budějovice, CZ

Part-time Employee
Dec 2020–Feb 2021

- Collated Kateřina Sam's Papua New Guinea bird datasets spanning c. 4 years and uploaded to eBird

Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences
České Budějovice, CZ

Part-time Employee
Oct 2020

- Calculated herbivory damage from images of collected leaves from Cameroon using ImageJ

Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR Himalaya)
Kumaon, IN

Research intern
Apr 2018–May 2018

- Studied butterfly diversity patterns across a land-use intensification gradient in oak-pine forests of Kumaon Himalayas

Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS)
Agumbe, IN

Research volunteer
Apr 2017–May 2017

- Assisted in field work and data entry for a project on breeding ecology of the Yellow-wattled Lapwing
- Additionally, learned basics of camera trapping, scale counting for snakes and PCQ vegetation survey

Qualifications

Certifications

- **English CEFR C2**, IELTS (Academic), 2023 & 2018. Overall Band Score: 8.5.
- **Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)**, Ecology and Evolution (EY), 2023. All-India Topper (Marks: 84.33; Score: 1000).

Skills

- **Technical:** Fluent in R, RMarkdown & Quarto markdown, Git & GitHub, Zotero, QGIS, Audacity. Strong skillset in quantitative ecology, research design, reproducibility, transparency. Experienced in workflow management and data wrangling.
- **Field:** Driving licence for LMV & MCWG (India), and Class E (USA). Experience with bird survey methods, camera trapping & radio telemetry; telephoto & macro photography; audio recording. Excellent sight and sound ID of birds (India, central Europe, southeast USA). Extensive field experience in diverse and challenging landscapes, habitats and terrains.
- **Languages:** English, Malayalam (native), Hindi. Learning Spanish (currently A1).

Teaching

Courses

BIOL 4254 Principles of Ecology Lab
Baton Rouge, US

Louisiana State University
Aug 2026–present

- Fall 2026

BIOL 1209 Introductory Biology Lab II
Baton Rouge, US

Louisiana State University
Aug 2025–May 2026

- Fall 2025 (2 sec. x 24 students), Spring 2026 (1 sec. x 60 students)
- Overall performance evaluation 'Exceeds Expectations' (Spring 2026)

BIOL 1208 Introductory Biology Lab I

Baton Rouge, US

Louisiana State University

Jan 2025–May 2025

- Overall performance evaluation 'Exceeds Expectations' (Spring 2025)

Workshops

Introduction to GitHub workflows

Baton Rouge, US

Montaño Lab

Apr 2026

- Led c. 3 h crash course for members of Montaño Lab, introducing Git and GitHub, with demos of how to integrate it into workflows

Using R for analyses using eBird data: An introduction

Thrissur, IN

Kerala Bird Monitoring Meet (KBMM) 2024

Jun 2024

- Led c. 3 h crash course for c. 20 participants (birders) with assistance from Praveen J

Analysing eBird data with R

Thrissur, IN

Kerala Bird Monitoring Meet (KBMM) 2023

Jun 2023

- Led workshop for c. 20 participants (birders) with assistance from Praveen J

Introduction to Merlin and eBird tools

Silchar, IN

Assam University, Silchar

May 2022

- Assisted Mittal Gala in short outdoor training session for 8 MSc Physics students
- Introduced features of Merlin Bird ID and eBird Mobile, and demonstrated practical usage
- Interacted with students on general queries about birds and birding

Bird monitoring and eBird

Lembucherra, IN

College of Agriculture, Lembucherra

May 2022

- Assisted Mittal Gala in indoor workshop for c. 40 participants (students and local birders)
- Provided technical assistance, coordination support, and ad-hoc engagement with audience

Mentoring

2025–26: Mentored LSU LAGNiAppE scholar on R programming, version control, and data analysis for study on winter roosting ecology of White-throated Sparrow.
2022–23: Advised high school student's behavioural study on breeding ecology of Purple Sunbird.

Presentations

2026: *Drivers of dryland bird communities: A multi-scale approach.* Systematics, Ecology and Evolution Seminar Series, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA.

2026: *State of India's Birds 2023: A framework to leverage semi-structured citizen science for bird conservation.* American Ornithological Society 2026, Amherst, USA. (Get slides or code)

2026: *How does the environment shape global diversity patterns of dryland bird assemblages?* (Poster.) American Ornithological Society 2026, Amherst, USA.

2023: *Citizen Science at NCF Field Sites.* Presented with Mittal Gala. NCF Annual Meet 2023, Mysuru, IN.

2022: *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on birding and birds in India.* NCF Annual Meet 2022, Mysuru, IN. (Get slides or code)

2022: *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on birding and birds in India.* International Ornithological Congress 2022, online. (Get slides or code)

2022: *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on bird monitoring in India.* (Poster.) Bird Monitoring Symposium 2022, online.

2019: *Inventory of butterfly species along a land-use intensification gradient in moist temperate forest biome in Kumaon Himalayas.* Ecology Seminar, University of South Bohemia, CZ.

2018: *A study on avian diversity in an industrial area of the Palghat Gap.* National Seminar on Development and Ecological Sustainability: Issues in Emerging India (DESIEI) 2018, Bengaluru, IN.

Community Activity

Peer review

Associate Editor (Code Integrity and Accessibility) for *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* (2026–present).

Reviewed for *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, *Indian Birds*.

Memberships

- British Ecological Society (2026–present)
- Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Honor Society (Full Member, 2026–present)
- Wilson Ornithological Society (2026–present)
- British Ornithologists' Union (2025–present)
- Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (2025–present)
- American Ornithological Society (2024–present)

eBird review

Regional Reviewer & Hotspot Editor for India (May 2022–present).

Consulting

- eBird data analysis consultation, Bird Count India (Dec 2022–Dec 2024): Offered online office hours consultation for individuals or groups on how to analyse eBird data (see more here).
- Organised North Wayanad Forest Division Bird Survey (2023): Helped formulate survey methodology, and managed technical logistics (eBird as a tool) and data quality.

Conferences

- Volunteering and emceeing for Bird Monitoring Symposium (2023, 2022), NCF Annual Meet (2022).
- Organised National Seminar DESIEI, Bengaluru (2018): Member of symposium Organising Committee, and led editorial work including editing, proofreading, typesetting, and publishing of Abstracts book.

Field surveys

- Team lead for Forest Department bird surveys in Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala (2023), Attappady, Kerala (2022), and Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh (2022). Also participated in Wet Season Survey of Kerala Bird Atlas (2019) in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala.
- Contributed to data collection and discussions during Bengal Florican survey (2023), part of the grassland monitoring project of The Habitats Trust, in Dudhwa–Pilibhit landscape, Uttar Pradesh.
- Joined mini-expedition to survey the birds of Betul, an underbirded district in Madhya Pradesh (2023).

Administration

Coordinated usage of NCF High Altitude Programme's high-performance server among multiple parties, as well as its maintenance (2022–24).

Other

- Served as judge for Project Fair by undergrad Ecology students at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA (Apr 2026).
- Co-led public bird walk for monthly "Birding at Burden" programme at Burden Gardens, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA (Mar 2026).

Referees

Dr Flavia A Montaño-Centellas

Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA
Email: fmontano@lsu.edu

Dr Ashwin Viswanathan

Research Associate, Education and Public Engagement
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India
Email: ashwinv@ncf-india.org

Dr Suhel Quader

Scientist, Education and Public Engagement
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India
Email: suhelq@ncf-india.org

Praveen J

Scientist, Education and Public Engagement
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India
Email: praveen.j@ncf-india.org

Dr Kateřina Sam

Department of Zoology, University of South Bohemia &
Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences
České Budějovice, Czech Republic
Email: katerinatvardikova@gmail.com

Dr PU Antony

Retired Professor, Department of Zoology
Christ University, Bengaluru, India
Email: antonypulahannan@gmail.com