Faye G. Romero

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EDUCATION

2021-Present **PhD Biology—Evolution, Ecology, Genetics, and Genomics**
University of Rochester. *Rochester, NY*
Supervisor: Dr. Nancy Chen

2016-2020 **BS Molecular Environmental Biology**
University of California, Berkeley. *Berkeley, CA*
Supervisor: Dr. Noah Whiteman

PUBLICATIONS

2025 Alexandre N.M.*, **Romero, F.G.***, English, S.G.*, E. Grames, F. Garzón-Agudelo, K. Epperly, T. Barnes, D.R. Powers, A.E. Smith, Z. Migicovsky, L. Stein, S. Akalu, H. Sridhar, G. Montross, E. Collins, A. Rico-Guevara. Supplemental Feeding as a Driver of Population Expansion and Morphological Change in Anna's Hummingbirds. *Global Change Biology*, 31(5):e70237. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.70237.

2024 **Romero, F.G.,** F.E.G. Beaudry, E. Hovmand Warner, T.N. Nguyen, J.W. Fitzpatrick, N. Chen. A new high quality genome assembly for the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). *G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics*, jkae232. DOI: 10.1093/g3journal/jkae232.

2023 Porter, C.K., **F.G. Romero**, D. Adams, R.C.K. Bowie, E. Riddell. Adaptive and non-adaptive convergent evolution in feather reflectance of Channel Islands songbirds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 290:20231914. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2023.1914.

2023 Mason, N.M., E.A. Riddell, **F.G. Romero**, C. Cicero, R.C.K. Bowie. Plumage balances camouflage and thermoregulation in horned larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). *The American Naturalist,* 201:2, E23-E40. DOI: 10.1086/722560.

*Co-first author

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

2025	$3,500	Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund. *American Museum of Natural History*
2025	$6,000	Robert K. Wayne Award in Evolutionary, Ecological, or Conservation Genomics. *American Genetic Association*
2024	$2,500	Student Research Grant. *American Ornithological Society*
2023	$2,500	R. C. Lewontin Early Award. *Society for the Study of Evolution*
2023-2026	$147,000	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. *National Science Foundation*
2021-2024	$6,000	Ernst Caspari Fellowship in Evolutionary, Developmental and Molecular Genetics. *University of Rochester*

AWARDS

2025	$300	Open Scholarship Award. *University of Rochester*
2023		Presidential Membership Award. *Genetic Society of America*
2022	$500	Graduate Student Travel Award. *University of Rochester*

2022 Student Membership Award. *American Ornithological Society*

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

2025 Student Research Grant Seminar Series. *American Ornithological Society* (virtual)
2023 Graduate Research Excellence Grants Seminar Series. *Society for the Study of Evolution* (virtual)

Contributed Presentations

2026 Great Lakes Annual Meeting of Evolutionary Genomic. *University at Buffalo******
2026 Population, Evolutionary, and Quantitative Genetics. *Asilomar, CA******
2025 Evolution. *Athens, GA*
2024 American Genetic Association President's Symposium: Genomic Technologies and the Future of Conservation. *Tahoe, CA*******
2023 Great Lakes Annual Meeting of Evolutionary Genomics. *Cornell University*
2023 American Ornithological Society 2023. *London, Ontario, CA*
2023-2025 Department of Biology E2G2 Seminar Series. *University of Rochester*
2022 Arts, Sciences, & Engineering Graduate Research Day. *University of Rochester*
2022 Great Lakes Annual Meeting of Evolutionary Genomics. *University at Buffalo*
2022 Evolution. *Cleveland, OH*
2021-2022 Department of Biology PhD Student Research Symposium. *University of Rochester*
2021 Applied Genomics Poster Symposium. *University of Rochester*

*****Best poster award
******Abstract-selected talk

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021-present **PhD Candidate.** Chen Lab, *University of Rochester*
2022 **Rotating PhD Student.** Uy Lab, *University of Rochester*
2021 **Rotating PhD Student.** Larracuente Lab, *University of Rochester*
2018-2020 **Research Assistant.** Whiteman Lab, *University of California, Berkeley*
2017-2018 **Research Assistant.** Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, *University of California, Berkeley*

TEACHING and MENTORSHIP

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022 **Applied Population Biology.** Instructor: Dr. Nancy Chen. *University of Rochester*
Spring 2023 **Computational Biology.** Instructor: Dr. Justin Fay. *University of Rochester*

Guest lecturer

Spring 2023 **Computational Biology.** Instructor: Dr. Justin Fay. *University of Rochester*

Mentorship

2023-2026 Conall Spaur, undergraduate, *University of Rochester**
2023-2025 Jenna Savino, undergraduate, *University of Rochester*
2022-2025 Alexandra Gaston, undergraduate, *University of Rochester*
2022-2023 Eyvind Hovmand Warner, undergraduate, *University of Rochester*

*Received a Schwartz Discover Grant for undergraduate summer research

SERVICE and OUTREACH

2023-present **Press Release Writer.** American Society of Naturalists
2022-present **STEM Professional.** Letters to a Pre-Scientist

2023-2026 **Co-founder & Representative.** Office of Student Relations, Department of Biology, *University of Rochester*
2025 **Reviewer.** Undergraduate Travel Awards, Genetics Society of America
2023-2025 **Member.** Multimedia Subcommittee, Early Career Leadership Program, Genetics Society of America
2023-2024 **Co-instructor.** Upward Bound**.** *University of Rochester*
2022-2024 **Field Assistant.** Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Rochester, NY
2022-2023 **Co-founder & Member.** Graduate Student Recruitment Committee. *University of Rochester*

POPULAR SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

2026 *Early Career Leadership Spotlight: Faye Romero.* **Blog post** for the Genetic Society of America's blog *Genes to Genomes*. (link)

2026 *How humans have "shaped" the Anna's Hummingbird*. **Public seminar** for the Los Angeles Birder's Club Webinar series. (link)

2026 *Bridging Disciplines: How a Theory Meant to Aid in Saving Plant and Animal Species is Helping Scientists Reconsider an Evolutionary Approach to Cancer Treatment — A Conversation with Srishti Patil and Dr. Robert Noble.* **Podcast episode** for GSA's "Genetics in Your World" podcast (researcher). (link)

2025 *Age Is Just A Number: Mapping Longevity in Diversity Outbred Mice - A Conversation with Dr. Gary Churchill*. **Podcast episode** for GSA's "Genetics in Your World" podcast (interviewer, researcher, graphic editor). (link)

2025 *Creating a personal website.* **Newsletter article** for the GSA's Early Career Leadership Program weekly newsletter.

2025 *Keep Learning in Your Downtime: Media Recommendations for Scientists.* **Newsletter article** for the GSA's Early Career Leadership Program weekly newsletter.

2025 *To breed or not to breed: explaining partial migration in shorebirds.* **Press release** for the American Society of Naturalists' "Forthcoming papers" blog. (link)

2025 *Breeding Better Berries: Inbreeding and Hybrid Vigor in Strawberries – A Conversation with Dr. Steven J. Knapp.* **Podcast episode** for GSA's "Genetics in Your World" podcast (interviewer, researcher, graphic editor). (link)

2024 *Parasite party: how inbreeding begets a complex life cycle.* **Press release** for the American Society of Naturalists' "Forthcoming papers" blog. (link)

2024 *Social Familiarity and Spatially Variable Environments Independently Determine Reproductive Fitness in a Wild Bird.* **Press release** for the American Society of Naturalists' "Forthcoming papers" blog. (link)

MEDIA COVERAGE

2026 **"With Feathers On Her Cap".** Written interview by Anthony Maddela for the digital magazine *Positively Filipino*. (link)

2025 Coverage of Alexandre, Romero, & English et al., *Global Change Biology*, 2025:
• "Bird feeders have caused a dramatic evolution of California hummingbirds". **News from *Science***.

• “Backyard feeders changed the shape of hummingbird beaks, scientists say”. **National Public Radio (NPR)**.
• “Hummingbirds Rapidly Evolved Longer Beaks to Slurp More Nectar from Yard Feeders, New Study Suggests”. **Audubon**.
• “Backyard Feeders Are Reshaping Hummingbirds”. **The Wildlife Society**.
• “California’s Hummingbirds Have Changed Their Beaks in Response to Backyard Feeders, Study Finds”. ***Smithsonian* Magazine**.
• “The rise of the Anthropocene can be tracked in hummingbirds’ beaks”. ***Anthropocene* Magazine**.
• “Hummingbirds Are Evolving to Adapt to Life With Humans”. ***Wired***.
• “California hummingbird beaks transformed by feeders: ‘more tapered and longer’”. ***The Guardian***.
• “Berkeley research finds feeders literally reshaped Calif. hummingbirds”. ***SFGATE***.

2025 **“Faye Romero”.** Featured scientist on *The Scientist Spotlights Initiative* website.

2023 **“Filipinas in STEM: Faye Romero**.” Written interview by Swastika Issar through the Science Corps Education & Research Fellowship and the Central Visayan Institute Foundation, Bohol, Philippines. (link)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Genetic Society of America
American Genetic Association
American Society of Naturalists
Society for the Study of Evolution
American Ornithological Society

SKILLS

Technical
de novo genome assembly, eukaryotic genome annotation, variant calling from next-generation sequencing data, genotype imputation, population genomic analysis (pedigree-based and large-scale population datasets), inter- and intra-species comparative genomic analysis

Computational
Bash, R, Python, Linux, Git, Slurm, HPC clusters, Conda, Docker/Apptainer, AWS, Claude Code, Microsoft Excel

Bioinformatics
BWA, minimap2, samtools, GATK, bcftools, vcftools, ANGSD, GLIMPSE, PLINK, hifiasm, 3D-DNA/Juicer, BUSCO, RepeatModeler/RepeatMasker, BRAKER, GENESPACE, UCSC Genome Browser utilities

Laboratory
DNA extraction (tube and plate, Qiagen DNeasy), DNA quantification (Qubit, NanoDrop), RNA purification, spectroradiometer, museum specimen preparation, database management