

# CHRISTIAN A. STRATTON

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## SUMMARY

Assistant professor of statistics with consulting, research, and teaching experience. Strong analytical skills pertaining to spatial statistics, Bayesian computation, and analysis of ecological data types. Research interests include: Bayesian computation, spatial statistics, species distribution modeling, modeling of wildlife disease, data visualization, and teaching techniques for data science.

## EDUCATION

<b>Montana State University</b> Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics Dissertation: <i>Bayesian Hierarchical Latent Variable Models for Ecological Data Types</i> Advisors: Dr. Andrew Hoegh and Dr. Jennifer Green	Bozeman, MT May 2022
<b>Montana State University</b> Master of Science in Statistics	Bozeman, MT May 2018
<b>Montana State University</b> Bachelor of Science with Honors in Mathematics (focus: Statistics)	Bozeman, MT December 2016

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

### PUBLISHED

- 10) **Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, T.J. Rodhouse, J.L. Green, K.M. Banner, K.M. Irvine. 2024. Clustering and unconstrained ordination with Dirichlet process mixture models. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.
- 9) **Stratton, C.** K.M Irvine, K.M. Banner, E.S. Almberg, D. Bachen, and K. Smucker. 2024. "Joint spatial modeling bridges the gap between disparate disease surveillance and population monitoring efforts informing conservation of at-risk bat species." *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics*.
- 8) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner, W.J. Wright, C. Lausen, J. Rae. 2022. "Coupling validation effort with *in situ* bioacoustic data improves estimating relative activity and occupancy for multiple species with cross-species misclassifications." *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 13(6), p. 1288 – 1303.
- 7) Khalighifar, A., B.S. Gotthold, E. Adams, J. Barnett, L.O. Beard, E.R. Britzke, P.A. Burger, K. Chase, Z. Cordes, P.M. Cryan, E. Ferrall, C.T. Fill, S.E. Gibson, G.S. Haulton, K.M. Irvine, L.S. Katz, W.L. Kendall, C.A. Long, O.M. Aodha, T. McBurney, S. McCarthy, M.W. McKown, J. O'Keefe, L.D. Patterson, K.A. Pitcher, M. Rustand, J.L. Segers, K. Seppanen, J.L. Simers, **C. Stratton**, B.R. Straw, T.J. Weller, and B.E. Reichert. 2022. "NABat ML: Utilizing deep learning to enable crowdsourced development of automated, scalable solutions for documenting North American bat populations." *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 56(11), p. 2849 – 2862.
- 6) Irvine, K.M., K.M. Banner, **C. Stratton**, W.M. Ford, and B.E. Reichert. 2022. "Statistical assessment on determining local presence of rare bat species." *Ecosphere*, 13(6), p. e4142.
- 5) **Stratton, C.**, J.L. Green, and A. Hoegh. 2021. "Not just normal: Exploring power with Shiny apps." *Technology Innovations in Statistics Education*, 13(1), p. 1 – 37.
- 4) Sepulveda, A.J., A. Hoegh, J.A. Gage, S.L. Caldwell-Eldridge, J.M. Birch, **C. Stratton**, P.R. Hutchins, E.P. Barnhart. 2021. "Integrating environmental DNA results with diverse data sets to improve biosurveillance of river health." *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 9, p. 1 – 13.
- 3) **Stratton, C.**, A.J. Sepulveda, and A. Hoegh. 2020. "msocc: Fit and analyze computationally efficient multi-scale occupancy models in R." *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 11(9), p. 1113 – 1120.
- 2) Sepulveda, A. J., C. Schmidt, J. Amberg, P. Hutchins, **C. Stratton**, C. Mebane, M. B. Laramie, and D. S. Pilliod. 2019. "Adding invasive species biosurveillance to the U.S. Geological Survey streamgauge network." *Ecosphere*, 10(8), p. 1 – 17.
- 1) Hoegh, A., K. Flag, and **C. Stratton**. 2018. Contributed comment on Article by Bradley, Holan,

and Wikle Invited commentary on “Computationally efficient multivariate spatio-temporal models for high-dimensional count-valued data” by Jonathan R. Bradley, Scott H. Holan, and Christopher K. Wikle. *Bayesian Data Analysis*, 13(1), p. 253 – 310.

#### IN REVIEW

Oram, J., K.M. Banner, **Stratton, C.**, Andrew Hoegh, and K.M. Irvine. “Leveraging the observed-data likelihood improves using machine learning labels in a Bayesian hierarchical model for bioacoustic data.” In review in *Annals of Applied Statistics*.

#### PEER-REVIEWED TECHNICAL REPORTS

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8) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Banner, and K.M. Irvine. 2023. “Code vignette for application of the spatially misaligned regression model described in ‘Joint spatial modeling bridges the gap between disparate disease surveillance and population monitoring efforts informing conservation of at-risk bat species,’ U.S. Geological Survey software release”

7) Udell, B.J., **C. Stratton**, B.R. Straw, K.M. Irvine, J.D. Reichard, S.M. Gaulke, J.T.H. Coleman, F. Tousley, R.D. Inman, A.N. Schuhmann, R. Shively, and B.E. Reichert. 2023. “North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) Integrated Summer Species Distribution Model: Predicted Tricolored Bat Occupancy Probabilities: U.S. Geological Survey data release.”

6) **Stratton, C.**, B.R. Straw, J.H. Cox, K.M. Irvine, F.C. Tousley, and B.E. Reichert. 2023. “Attributed North American Grid-Based Offshore Sampling Frames: U.S. Geological Survey data release.”

5) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine. 2022. Summertime analysis statistical report for Little Brown, Northern Long-eared, and Tricolored bat species status assessment. Chapter B in Straw, B.R., J. A. Martin, J.D. Reichard, and B.E. Reichert, editors. “Analytical assessments in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 3-Bat species status assessment. Cooperator report prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Bat Conservation International.”

4) Udell, B.J., B.R. Straw, T.L. Cheng, K. Enns, W.F. Frick, B. Gotthold, K.M. Irvine, C. Lausen, S. Loeb, J.D. Reichard, T.J. Rodhouse, D. Smith, **C. Stratton**, W.E. Thogmartin, and B.E. Reichert. 2022. “Status and trends of North American bats: Summer occupancy analysis 2010-2019.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

3) Irvine, K.M., and **C. Stratton**. 2021. “Rangewide summertime model predictions for three bat species (*Myotis lucifugus*, *Myotis septentrionalis*, and *Perimyotis subflavus*) from acoustic and mist net data 2010 to 2019: US Geological Survey data release.”

2) Wessel, S.A., L. Jones, E. Kramer, **C. Stratton**, L. Shoemaker, and D. Laughlin. 2020. “Predictability and stability of sagebrush-steppe restoration in a changing climate.” National Park Service Annual Report Vol. 43.

1) **Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, K. M. Irvine, K. Legg, K. McCloskey, E. Shanahan, M. Tercek, and D. Thoma. 2019. “Assessing spatial and temporal patterns in sagebrush steppe vegetation communities, 2012-2018: Grand Teton National Park.” Natural Resource Report NPS/GRYN/NRR-2019/2020. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

#### PRESENTATIONS

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11) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner, E. Almberg, D. Bachen, and K. Smucker. September 2023. “Joint spatial modeling bridges the gap between disparate disease surveillance and population monitoring efforts informing conservation of at-risk bat species” Invited talk given at the MT Chapter of the ASA annual meeting. Bozeman, MT, USA.

10) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner, E. Almberg, D. Bachen, and K. Smucker. August 2023. “Joint spatial modeling of ecological response and disease processes improves estimator precision.” Talk given at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

9) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner, E. Almberg, D. Bachen, and K. Smucker. June 2023. “A statistical framework for integrating White-nose syndrome surveillance data and acoustic population monitoring data.” Talk given to the U.S. Geological Survey Disease Coordination Group. Virtual.

8) **Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner, E. Almberg, D. Bachen, and K. Smucker. June 2023. “Leveraging WNS surveillance and NABat data improves estimation of disease spread and bat activity.”

Poster presented at the Whitenose Syndrome National Meeting. Palm Springs, California, USA.

**7) Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, E. Almberg, K. Smucker, and J. Gude. October 2022. “Joint spatial modeling of relative activity and disease processes.” Poster presented at the ENVR 2022 Workshop: Environmental and Ecological Statistical Research and Applications with Societal Impacts. Provo, Utah, USA.

**6) Stratton, C.**, K.M. Irvine, E. Almberg, K. Smucker, and J. Gude. October 2022. “Bats & Stats: Assessing Impacts of White-nose Syndrome on Western Bat Species.” Talk given at the Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center. Bozeman, Montana, USA.

**5) Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, K.M. Irvine, K.M. Banner. August 2021. “Clustering and ordination with Dirichlet process mixture models.” Invited talk given at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Virtual.

**4) Stratton, C.**, J.L. Green. June 2021. “Beyond normal: Understanding power through R Shiny.” Poster presented at the United States Conference on Teaching Statistics. Virtual.

**3) Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, and J.L. Green. August 2018. “Predicting pitch type: A case study in Bayesian hierarchical multinomial regression.” Invited talk given at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Vancouver, Canada.

**2) Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, and J.L. Green. August 2018. “Unraveling Kershaw’s dominance.” Poster presented at The Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports. Vancouver, Canada.

**1) Stratton, C.** and J.L. Green. May 2018. “The power of technology: A Shiny applet assisted approach to teaching statistical power.” Poster presented at the Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics. Virtual.

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#### PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE SOFTWARE

**Stratton, C.**, A. Hoegh, A. Sepulveda, and K.M. Banner. 2020. “msocc.” R package to support computationally efficient implementation of Bayesian multi-scale occupancy models.

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#### RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION EXPERIENCE

##### **Middlebury College**

*Assistant Professor of Statistics*

Middlebury, VT

July 2024 - Present

- Developed new courses in statistics
- Mentored and advised undergraduate students
- Led collaborative research projects with faculty and students

##### **Montana State University**

*Post-doctoral researcher*

Bozeman, MT

July 2022 - May 2024

Advisors: Dr. Kathryn Irvine (USGS) and Dr. Katharine Banner (MSU)

- Developed statistical modeling frameworks for ecological data structures
- Authored multiple peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports
- Communicated complicated statistical models to domain experts from multiple agencies
- Co-mentored a graduate-level statistician in support of research and analyses

##### **U.S. Geological Survey**

*Student contractor*

Bozeman, MT

August 2020 - July 2022

Supervisor: Dr. Kathryn Irvine (USGS)

- Provided analyses for Endangered Species Act listing decisions
- Authored peer-review journal articles and technical reports
- Collaborated with scientists from multiple domains

##### **Montana State University**

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Bozeman, MT

January 2019 - August 2020

- Resolved a wide scope of ecological problems using various techniques
- Collaborated and communicated with domain experts in ecology and land-resource management

- Developed models and tools to aid collaborators
- Authored papers, web applications, and R packages

**Montana State University**  
*Statistical Consultant*

Bozeman, MT  
 August 2017 - May 2018

- Communicated with clients
- Identified solutions to a wide scope of problems
- Successfully collaborated across departments to resolve problems

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor of Record** Middlebury, VT  
*STAT 0311: Statistical Inference* S25

Lead instructor responsibilities included: developing course materials, facilitating active learning environments, holding office hours for students.

**Instructor of Record** Middlebury, VT  
*STAT 0116: Introduction to Statistical Science* S25

Lead instructor responsibilities included: developing course materials, facilitating active learning environments, holding office hours for students.

**Instructor of Record** Middlebury, VT  
*STAT 0219: Time Series Analysis* F24

Lead instructor responsibilities included: developing course materials, facilitating active learning environments, holding office hours for students.

**Instructor of Record** Middlebury, VT  
*STAT 0116: Introduction to Statistical Science* F24

Lead instructor responsibilities included: developing course materials, facilitating active learning environments, holding office hours for students.

**Guest Lecturer** Bozeman, MT  
*STAT 408: Statistical Computing and Graphics Analysis* S22

Provided guest lectures on data visualization with the **tidyverse** and implementing version control software in statistical analyses to undergraduate-level statistics students.

**Supervisor** Bozeman, MT  
*Math and Stat Learning Center* F19

Supervised undergraduate and graduate tutors in the Mathematics and Statistics Learning Center. Responsibilities included coordinating monthly meeting, proposing and implementing logistical improvements, instructing tutors on how to effectively communicate mathematics and statistics, and tutoring undergraduate students in a variety of courses, including Calculus I-III, Linear Algebra, Introduction to Statistics, and Intermediate Statistical Concepts.

**Guest Lecturer** Bozeman, MT  
*STAT 402/502: Intermediate Mathematical Statistics* S19

Provided guest lecture on interpreting statistical power to undergraduate-level and graduate-level mathematical statistics students using **R Shiny**.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** Bozeman, MT  
*STAT 411/511: Methods for Data Analysis I* S19

Teaching assistant responsibilities included: grading homeworks and exams, writing and leading interactive lab assignments, and providing intermittent lectures on coding in **R** with an emphasis on data visualization.

**Instructor of Record** Bozeman, MT  
*STAT 217: Intermediate Statistical Concepts* F18

Lead instructor responsibilities included: leading lectures, writing lecture notes, writing and grading homeworks and exams, writing lab assignments, and supervising teaching assistants.

**Instructor of Record** Bozeman, MT  
*STAT 216: Introduction to Statistics* S17, F17, S18

Lead instructor responsibilities included: implementing active learning teaching strategies in class, planning and preparing course materials, holding office hours for students.

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

Bozeman, MT

*STAT 216: Introduction to Statistics*

F15, S16, F16

Teaching responsibilities included: facilitating discussion during in-class activities and holding office hours for students.

**Tutor**

Bozeman, MT

*Math and Stat Learning Center*

F14, S15, F15, S16, F16

Tutored undergraduate students in the Mathematics and Statistics Learning Center in a wide variety of courses, including: College Algebra, Calculus I-III, Linear Algebra, Introduction to Statistics, and Intermediate Statistical Concepts.

## SERVICE

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**Montana Chapter of the American Statistical Association**

Bozeman, MT

*Chapter Secretary and Council of Chapters Representative*

Sept 2022 - Present

Responsibilities included facilitating coordination of annual meetings, keeping meeting notes, and attending the Council of Chapters session at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

**Bozeman Environmental and Ecological Statistics (BEES)**

Bozeman, MT

*Co-President*

Sept 2022 - Present

The BEES research group is a group focused on mentoring graduate students with interest in statistical research motivated by environmental and ecological applications. Responsibilities as co-president include coordinating bi-weekly meetings, mentoring graduate students, providing papers for literature review sessions, maintaining the group website, and coordinating invited speaker presentations.

**Annals of Applied Statistics**

*Referee*

2023

Refereed papers for the *Annals of Applied Statistics* journal.

**Montana State University STEAM Day**

Bozeman, MT

*Workshop Presenter*

April 2023

MSU STEAM Day is a one-day conference that includes hands-on workshops in the STEAM fields of science, technology, engineering, art and math for girls in grades six, seven, and eight. Responsibilities included presenting an interactive activity introducing statistical inference using the dice game Pass the Pigs.

**DataFest**

Bozeman, MT

*Volunteer judge*

April 2019, April 2022

Volunteer responsibilities included providing guidance to undergraduate-level and graduate-level students competing in DataFest competition.

## AWARDS

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**Three Minute Thesis Competition Finalist**

Bozeman, MT

Finalist for the Three Minute Thesis competition

February 2020

**Dr. William A. Stannard Award for Excellence**

Bozeman, MT

Recognition of outstanding graduate student teaching

May 2018

**Outstanding Graduate Student Award**

Bozeman, MT

Recognition of superior academic achievement among graduate students

May 2017

**John L. Magaret Math/Science Scholarship**

Bozeman, MT

Recipient of scholarship for outstanding academic achievement

January 2017

**Milton-Chauner Math Scholarship**

Bozeman, MT

Recipient of scholarship for outstanding academic achievement

August 2016

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award**

Bozeman, MT

Recognition of superior academic achievement among undergraduate students

May 2016

**Outstanding Scholar Award**

Bozeman, MT

Recognition of superior academic performance

May 2016

**Montana State University System Award**

Bozeman, MT

Scholarship for outstanding academic performance

December 2015

**Phi Kappa Phi**

Bozeman, MT

Member of Phi Kappa Phi, a national multi-disciplinary honor society

March 2015

**Pi Mu Epsilon**

Bozeman, MT

Member of Pi Mu Epsilon, a national mathematics honor society

December 2014

SKILLS

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Statistical computing languages:

R, Julia, SAS

Other programming languages:

HTML, Markdown, Quarto, R Shiny, Tableau

Probabilistic programming languages:

BUGS, JAGS, NIMBLE, Stan

Database management systems:

SQL, SQLite, Microsoft Excel

Operating systems:

Windows, Mac OS