

Dr. Allison Patterson

2026 Winner: Early Career Researcher Awards ~ In Memorial of Dr. Keith Hobson

Allison Patterson is a seabird scientist with the Biodiversity Research Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada in Dartmouth, NS, who studies the movement and behaviour of marine birds. She has had the privilege of working with seabird populations and researchers on all three coasts of Canada. She has a MSc in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, where she worked with Dr Dan



Roby and Dr Don Lyons on the foraging ecology of Caspian Terns at artificial nesting colonies. She completed her PhD in 2021 at McGill University under the direction of Dr. Kyle Elliott and Dr. Grant Gilchrist, studying the year-round movements of thick-billed murres from Coats Island, NU. She then worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Windsor with Dr. Oliver Love conducting research on the distribution of Arctic seabirds in a changing climate.

Dr. Patterson gave a plenary at the SCO-SCO 2026 Annual Conference on the role of biologging in marine ornithology research. Biologging shifts the perspective of our measurements from the observer to the individual bird. The proliferation of biologging technologies over the last 25 years has revolutionized how we study birds, allowing ornithologists to observe individual bird movements over large spatio-temporal scales and at increasingly fine resolution. Marine ornithology was historically constrained by the inherent challenges of observing birds at sea. Advances in biologging represent a sea change for seabird research, creating opportunities to empirically investigate questions in ecology that were inconceivable to previous generations of scientists.