

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Benjamin Winger, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	University of Chicago
B.A.	2007	Cornell University

Professional Record:

2017-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
2015-2017	Post-doctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Winger regularly teaches EEB 433 (Ornithology) and EEB 390 (Evolution). EEB 433 is a demanding course in which Professor Winger uses more than 500 specimens from the Museum of Zoology to teach the students avian diversity, leads numerous field trips, and organizes a lab component as well. Despite the rigor, students are very enthusiastic about the course, and Professor Winger won a Teaching Excellence Award from the Program in Biology in 2019. Professor Winger has mentored four post-doctoral scholars, five Ph.D. students, one master's student, and three high school students. Many of the post-doctoral scholars have gone on to tenure track positions, and the Ph.D. students receive prominent fellowships and awards.

Research: Professor Winger has developed a robust research program on migration and organismal response to global change, mostly focused on birds. His work has changed the way biologists think about the causes of migration, and how various global change drivers disrupt it. He is also doing groundbreaking work on population divergence and speciation in both migratory and non-migratory species. His papers appear in the very best journals in the fields of ecology and evolution. In addition, three of his papers have won scholarly or society awards.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Gulson-Castillo, E.R., Van Doren, B.M., Bui, M.X., Horton, K.G., Li, J., Moldwin, M.W., Shedden, K., Welling, D., and Winger, B.M. (2023). Space weather disrupts nocturnal bird migration. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(42), e2306317120

Zimova, M., Weeks, B.C., Willard, D.E., Giery, S.T., Jirinec, V., Burner, R.C., and Winger, B.M. (2023). Body size predicts the rate of contemporary morphological change in birds. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(20), e2206971120.

Van Doren, B.M., Willard, D.E., Hennen, M., Horton, K.G., Stuber, E.F., Sheldon, D., Sivakumar, A.H., Wang, J., Farnsworth, A., and Winger, B.M. (2021). Drivers of fatal bird collisions in an urban center. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(24), e2101666118.

Weeks, B.C., Willard, D.E., Zimova, M., Ellis, A.A., Witynski, M.L., Hennen, M., and Winger, B.M. (2020). Shared morphological consequences of global warming in North American migratory birds. *Ecology Letters*, 23(2), 316-325

Service: Professor Winger has served admirably on key departmental committees such as the Graduate Admissions and Executive Committees. He also displays a strong commitment to the profession as a reviewer for NSF and an associate editor for the journal *Ornithology*. Perhaps most importantly, Professor Winger, in his work as assistant curator, has revived the bird division in the Museum of Zoology. It is now an active division, is growing in stature and engagement with the community (and other museums) and is poised to become a nationally leading collection again.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “[Professor Winger] is now internationally known as a research leader on the evolutionary ecology of avian migration. His rate of publication is solid for someone at his career stage, but the quality of his publications is exemplary. Ben consistently publishes papers of high scholarly impact, and on these papers he is clearly the driving force behind the ideas and the execution of the research.”

Reviewer (B): “[Professor Winger’s] impact on the field of avian migration cannot be overstated. He is arguably the broadest thinker on this topic since the pioneering work by George Cox in the late 1960s.”

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Winger easily ranks among the very top among his peer cohorts in ornithology and evolutionary biology.”

Reviewer (D): “Professor Winger’s research...is extremely impressive. He has had significant impact on the fields of evolutionary biology, movement ecology, biogeography, and eco-evolutionary studies.”

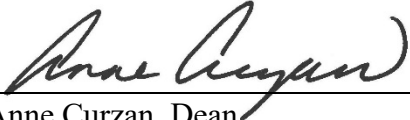
Reviewer (E): “[Professor Winger] has developed an absolutely unique portfolio of research, with many truly innovative conceptual and empirical advances... I certainly rank [him] amongst the top 5% bird-oriented evolutionary biologist [sic] in the world, in fact he could be on top.”

Reviewer (F): “The body of work on migration is in my opinion outstanding and easily of the quality to merit promotion, but it is only one half of Winger’s research program. The other half is on speciation, and here he has been focusing on understanding the effects of dispersal/gene flow on differentiation. I feel this is currently one of two or three of the most important and most difficult problems in understanding the progress of speciation.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Winger is a world-class organismal biologist who is exploring some of the most classic and pressing questions in evolution and ecology. He is changing the way we think about key concepts like migration and speciation, as well as shining a bright light on the impacts of global change and urbanization on biodiversity. He is a dedicated and committed teacher in the classroom and in the field and an excellent mentor to high school students, undergraduates,

graduate students, and post-doctoral scholars. His curatorial work has revived the bird division in the Museum of Zoology. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Benjamin Winger be promoted to the rank of associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Curzan", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2024