

Olga Milenkaya

Natural Sciences & Kinesiology Department
Laredo Community College
West End Washington Street
Laredo, Texas 78040 USA

Cell +1 408.616.0744
Office +1 956.721.5828
olm@vt.edu | www.milenkaya.org

Current position

Biology Instructor	Aug 2014 – present	Laredo Community College Laredo, Texas, USA
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Education

Ph.D.	Biological Sciences	2013	Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia, USA Advisor: Jeffrey R. Walters
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Dissertation: Validating body condition indices as indicators of individual quality: does condition explain intraspecific variation in reproductive success and survival among crimson finches (*Neochmia phaeton*)?

B.A.	Environmental Studies	2003	Warren Wilson College Swannanoa, North Carolina, USA Advisor: Louise Weber
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Teaching experience

1. Instructor of record at Laredo Community College				2014
Biology for Science Majors I	1 section	23 students		
Biology for Science Majors II	1 section	21 students		
Biology for Non-Science Majors I	1 section	22 students		
Biology for Science Majors Lab I	1 section	22 students		
Biology for Science Majors Lab II	1 section	21 total students		
Biology for Non-Science Majors Lab I	3 sections	54 total students		
2. Graduate teaching assistant at Virginia Tech				
Co-instructor of Ornithology Lab	2 sections	20 students each	2011, 2012, 2013	
Instructor of Principles of Biology Lab	3 sections	24 students each	2008, 2012	
3. Guest lecturer at Virginia Tech				
“Populations”	in Ecology	130 students		2012
“Mating Systems”	in Ornithology	40 students		2012
“Life History”	in Ecology	130 students		2012
“Biodiversity and Conservation”	in Ecology	130 students		2011
“Avian Conservation”	in Ornithology	75 students		2011

Peer-reviewed publications

8. **Milenkaya, O.**, Catlin, D., Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. In prep 2014. Body condition indices predict reproductive success but not survival in a sedentary, tropical bird.
7. Catlin, D., **Milenkaya, O.**, Hunt, K., Friederich, M., & J. Fraser. In press 2014. Developmental effects and conservation: can river management improve a species' long-term prospects? *Biological Conservation*.
6. **Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. 2014. Body-condition indices are repeatable across short, but not long, time periods in crimson finches *Neochmia phaeton*. *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* 87(4): 550–558.
5. **Milenkaya, O.**, Weinstein, N., Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. 2013. Variation in body condition indices of crimson finches by sex, breeding stage, age, time of day, and year. *Conservation Physiology* 1: doi: 10.1093/conphys/cot020.
4. **Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. 2011. Breeding biology and life history traits of an Australasian tropical granivore, the Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*. *Emu* 111(4): 312–320.
3. Maurer, G., Double, M.C., **Milenkaya, O.**, Süsser, M., & R. Magrath. 2011. Breaking the rules: sex roles and genetic mating system of the pheasant coucal. *Oecologia* 167: 413–425.
2. Hall, M.L., Murphy, S.A., Churchwell, R., & **O. Milenkaya**. 2010. Interspecific feeding across feeding guilds – male purple-crowned fairy-wren feeds nestling crimson finches. *Corella* 34: 49–50.
1. Doody, J.S., **Milenkaya, O.**, Rhind, D., Eastley, T., & K. Penrose. 2010. *Varanus mitchelli* (Mitchell's Water Monitor) diet and foraging behavior. *Herpetological Review* 41: 233–234.

Invited seminar presentations

Milenkaya, O. & J.R. Walters. 2013. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: is body condition a meaningful proxy for individual quality? Radford University, Radford, Virginia, USA

Conference presentations

7. * **Milenkaya, O.** & J.R. Walters. 2013. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: condition indices are repeatable but do not predict reproductive success or survival. Oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA.
6. **Milenkaya, O.** & J.R. Walters. 2012. Condition indices among Crimson Finches are repeatable but do not predict reproductive success or survival. Oral presentation, North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Conference presentations (continued)

5. **Milenkaya, O.** & J.R. Walters. 2012. Interpreting condition indices as individual quality: a cautionary tale. Poster presentation, Virginia Tech Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.
4. **Milenkaya, O.** & J.R. Walters. 2012. Condition indices do not predict survival in a wild passerine. Poster presentation, Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Charleston, South Carolina, USA.
3. **Milenkaya, O.** & J.R. Walters. 2011. Variation in avian health parameters across age, sex, year and breeding stage. Poster presentation, Virginia Tech Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.
2. **Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. 2010. Life history and the evolution of clutch size in a tropical granivore. Poster presentation, International Ornithological Congress, Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil.
1. **Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., & J.R. Walters. 2009. Breeding biology and life history traits of a tropical granivore, the Crimson Finch. Oral presentation, Australasian Ornithological Conference, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia.

* = best student oral presentation (see **Awards** below)

Awards, sponsorships and grants

* Alexander Wilson Award for best student oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society	2013
Wilson Student Membership Award, Wilson Ornithological Society	2013
Student Travel Award, Wilson Ornithological Society	2012
Conference travel grant, Travel Fund Program, Graduate Student Assembly, Virginia Tech (spring)	2012
Conference travel grant, Travel Fund Program, Graduate Student Assembly, Virginia Tech (fall)	2012
Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program, Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology	2011
Postgraduate Student Sponsorship, Birds Australia	2009
Ralph E. Carlson Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology, Virginia Tech	2009

Professional service

Serve on the General Education Committee, Laredo Community College	2014 – present
Peer-review of manuscripts for <i>Journal of Avian Biology</i> , <i>Bird Conservation International</i>	2012 – present
Serve on the Undergraduate Research Awards Committee Dept. Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech	2012 – 2013
Peer-review grants, Graduate Research Development Program, Virginia Tech	2010 – 2013
Active member, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech	2008 – 2013
Social Chair, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech	2010 – 2012

Community service

In prep: \$25,000 grant proposal to the Ed Rachal Foundation	At present
For the engagement of minority high school students with birding and ornithology	
Serve on the organizing committee of the Laredo Birding Festival	2014 – present
Active member of the Monte Mucho Audubon Society	2014 – present
Serve as a “Global Ambassador,” Cranwell International Center, Virginia Tech	2012 – 2013
Volunteer with international students, Cranwell International Center, Virginia Tech	2011 – 2013

Memberships

American Ornithologists’ Union	2010 – present
Wilson Ornithological Society	2013 – present
Cooper Ornithological Society	2005 – 2007, 2010 – 2013
Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech	2008 – 2013
Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology	2012
Warren Wilson College Board of Trustees	2002 – 2003

Professional development

Entering Mentoring and Setting Expectations in Undergraduate Research Workshop	2012
Contemporary Pedagogy course	2012
Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop	2008

Additional professional experience

Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, Australia	Nov 2007 – Jun 2008 and Nov 2006 – May 2007
Field technician: health and breeding of the crimson finch.	
International Wildlife Consultants, Ltd. – Mongolia	Jun – Aug 2006
Field technician: population monitoring and conservation of the saker falcon.	
Max Planck Institute – Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, Australia	Mar – May 2006
Field technician: behavioral research on the purple-crowned fairy wren.	
Australian National University – Northern Territory, Australia	Nov 2005 – Mar 2006
Field assistant: research on the sex-roles of the pheasant coucal.	
U.S. Forest Service – Redwood Sciences Laboratory, CA, USA	Apr – Oct 2005
Research assistant: constant effort mist-netting focused on neotropical migrants.	
National Audubon Society – Seabird Restoration Program, ME, USA	Jun – Aug 2003
Research assistant: seabird research and restoration on remote off-shore islands.	