

Olga Milenkaya

www.milenkaya.org
(828) 706-3904
omilenkaya@warren-wilson.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019 – Present Professor of Conservation Biology unranked, long-term contract system
Warren Wilson College, 701 Warren Wilson Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778 USA
- 2015 – 2019 Assistant Professor of Biology tenure track
Program Coordinator of Sustainability Minor
Young Harris College, 1 College Street, Young Harris, Georgia 30582 USA
- 2014 Instructor of Biology tenure track
Laredo Community College, West End Washington Street, Laredo, Texas 78040 USA
- 2008 – 2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant & Graduate Research Assistant
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 USA

EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D. Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. Advised by Jeffrey R. Walters
- 2003 B.A. Environmental Studies, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, North Carolina

TEACHING

Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of times that I taught each course at each institution.

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

Forthcoming

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

UPPER-LEVEL BIOLOGY MAJORS

Conservation Biology + Lab (×4)
Vertebrate Zoology + Lab (×1) co-taught
Ecology + Lab (×2)
Animal Behavior (×2)
Independent Study: Captive Animal Biology (×1)
Special Topic: Ornithology (×1)

INTRO BIOLOGY MAJORS

Intro to General Biology I + Lab (×2)
Intro to General Biology II + Lab (×6)

NON-SCIENCE MAJORS

Intro to General Biology II + Lab (×1)
Ecological & Environmental Studies + Lab (×1)
Environmental Studies & Sustainability (×3)

LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTRO BIOLOGY MAJORS

Intro to General Biology I + Lab (×1)
Intro to General Biology II + Lab (×1)

NON-SCIENCE MAJORS

Intro to General Biology I + Lab (×1)

TEACHING Continued from previous page

VIRGINIA TECH

UPPER-LEVEL BIOLOGY MAJORS

Ornithology Lab (×3)

INTRO BIOLOGY MAJORS

Intro to General Biology I Lab (×2)

MENTORSHIP

I mentor undergraduates throughout the entire scientific process, from reviewing the literature to experimental design, data collection and analysis, scientific writing, and oral presentations.

- Eight students in three years
- All students presented their research at Georgia Academy of Sciences annual meeting (except for one who's abstract was accepted but was later not able to attend the actual meeting)
- Four students won travel awards to a conference (see *Awards & Grants* below)
- One student presented at a national conference (see *Presentations* below)
- One student won institutional research grant (see *Awards & Grants* below)

I additionally mentored:

- Former field assistant in writing article (see *Peer-Reviewed Publications* below)
- One undergraduate student in Sustainability Minor capstone project
- Several students in Honors Program projects

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* Mentee, former field assistant

- 2019 McKay JL, O Milenkaya. 2019. Wild copulation in the Mexican Mud Turtle *Kinosternon integrum* Le Conte, 1854. *Sauria* 42(2): 63–69.
- 2018 Kindel J*, Legge S, **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Male-male pair bonding, nesting and egg incubation in a wild passerine. *Journal of Ornithology*. 159(1): 307–309. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10336-017-1495-y>
- 2018 Somaweera R, Lilley R, Putra A, Ganz P, Govendan PN, McKay JL, **O Milenkaya**. Additions to the herpetofaunal diversity of the Island of Bali, Indonesia. *Sauria* 40(1): 75–86.
- 2017 McKay JL, Marantelli P, **O Milenkaya**. *Apalone spinifera* (Spiny Softshell). *Herpetological Review* 48(1): 121.
- 2016 McKay JL, **O Milenkaya**. *Stegonotus batjanensis*: diet. *Herpetological Review* 47(2): 316–317.
- 2016 **Milenkaya O**, JL McKay. Observation in the Wild of the Poorly-Known *Varanus yuwonoi*. *Biawak* 10(1): 13–17.
- 2015 **Milenkaya O**, Catlin D, Legge S, JR Walters. Body condition indices predict reproductive success but not survival in a sedentary, tropical bird. *PLOS ONE*. 10(8): e0136582. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0136582
- 2014 Catlin DH, **Milenkaya O**, Hunt KL, Friederich MJ, JD Fraser. Can river management improve the piping plover's long-term survival on the Missouri River? *Biological Conservation* 180: 196–205.

- 2014 **Milenkaya O**, Legge S, JR Walters. 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.
- 2013 **Milenkaya O**, Weinstein N, Legge S, JR Walters. 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.
- 2011 **Milenkaya O**, Legge S, JR Walters. Breeding biology and life history traits of an Australasian tropical granivore, the Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*. *Emu* 111: 312–320.
- 2011 Maurer G, Double MC, **Milenkaya O**, Süsser M, R Magrath. Breaking the rules: sex roles and genetic mating system of the pheasant coucal. *Oecologia* 167: 413–425.
- 2010 Hall ML, Murphy SA, Churchwell R, **O Milenkaya**. Interspecific feeding across feeding guilds – male purple-crowned fairy-wren feeds nestling crimson finches. *Corella* 34: 49–50.
- 2010 Doody JS, **Milenkaya O**, Rhind D, Eastley T & K Penrose. *Varanus mitchelli* (Mitchell's Water Monitor) diet and foraging behavior. *Herpetological Review* 41: 233–234.

PRESENTATIONS

* Mentee, undergraduate student

- 2019 Crowell A*, McKay JL, Eden K*, **O Milenkaya**. Native population is maladapted in competing with invasive species, but intraspecific variation suggests changing behaviour. Oral presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, University of North Georgia, Gainesville, Georgia. NOTE: travel award (see *Awards* below)
- 2018 Dunn L*, McKay JL, Aviña LM*, **O Milenkaya**. Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) increase nest visitation rate in response to a novel predator, the house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Poster presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 2018 Muldoon MM*, **O Milenkaya**. Population-level response of Carolina chickadees to the expansion of house wrens in Appalachian Georgia. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, West Georgia University. NOTE: travel award (see *Awards* below)
- 2018 Aviña LM*, McKay JL, Dunn L*, **O Milenkaya**. Parental anti-predatory behaviour of Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) based on clutch size manipulation. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, West Georgia University. NOTE: travel award (see *Awards* below)
- 2018 Cochran EE*, McKay JL, Aviña LM*, Dunn L*, **O Milenkaya**. Variation in structural nest properties and their effects on reproductive success in Carolina chickadees. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, West Georgia University.
- 2018 Dunn L*, McKay JL, Aviña LM*, **O Milenkaya**. Evolution of anti-predatory behaviour among Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) in response to a novel predator, the house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, West Georgia University.
- 2013 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: is body condition a meaningful proxy for individual quality? Invited seminar presentation at Radford University, Radford, Virginia.

PRESENTATIONS Continued from previous page

- 2013 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: condition indices are repeatable but do not predict reproductive success or survival. Oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- NOTE:** best graduate student oral presentation (see *Awards* below)
- 2012 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. 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.
- 2012 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Interpreting condition indices as individual quality: a cautionary tale. Poster presentation, VT Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- 2012 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Condition indices do not predict survival in a wild passerine. Poster presentation, Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology, Charleston, South Carolina.
- 2011 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Variation in avian health parameters across age, sex, year and breeding stage. Poster presentation, VT Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- 2010 **Milenkaya O**, Legge S, JR Walters. Life history and the evolution of clutch size in a tropical granivore. Poster presentation, International Ornithological Congress, Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2009 **Milenkaya O**, Legge S, JR Walters. Breeding biology and life history traits of a tropical granivore, the Crimson Finch. Oral presentation, Australasian Ornithological Conference, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia.

AWARDS & GRANTS

* Awarded to undergraduate student mentees

- 2019 Travel award, Georgia Academy of Sciences*
- 2017, 2018 Most Valuable Professor, awarded by graduating senior student athlete
- 2018 Travel awards, Georgia Academy of Sciences (x2)*
- 2017 Honors Program Research Grant (granted \$900)*, Young Harris College
- 2015, 2016 Research Grants (awarded \$1614), Highlands Plateau Audubon Society
- 2013 Alexander Wilson Award for best student oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society
- 2013 Wilson Student Membership Award, Wilson Ornithological Society
- 2012 Student Travel Award, Wilson Ornithological Society
- 2012 Conference travel grant, Travel Fund Program, Virginia Tech
- 2011 Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
- 2009 Postgraduate Student Sponsorship, Birds Australia
- 2009 Ralph E. Carlson Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology, Virginia Tech
- 2004 Nominated for Alton F. Pfaff Cup Award, Warren Wilson College
- 2000 Community Service Scholarship, Warren Wilson College

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2017 – Present	Judge student oral presentations, Wilson Ornithological Society
2012 – Present	Peer-review manuscripts: <i>PLOS ONE</i> , <i>Restoration Ecology</i> , <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> , <i>Journal of Avian Biology</i> , <i>Bird Conservation International</i> , <i>Australian Field Ornithology</i>
2017 – 2019	Peer-review abstracts & judge oral presentations, Georgia Academy of Sciences
2016 – 2018	Serve on Master's Thesis Advisory Committees, Western Carolina University <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Traci Ballance: Effects of nest quality on incubation and reproductive success in Carolina chickadees (<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>)○ Sarah Britton: Indirect effects of a competitor on life history and reproductive traits in a cavity nesting bird○ Both students successfully defended in 2018

SERVICE TO COLLEGE

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

Forthcoming

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

2017 – 2019	Program Coordinator of Sustainability Minor: program development & assessment
2017 – 2019	Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee
2016 – 2019	Academic advising, 10+ students each semester
Fall 2018	Faculty mentor to a new faculty member
Fall 2018	Chair, Biology Search Committee
2015 – 2016	Student Conduct Committee
2016	Biology Search Committee
2015	Honor Council Jury

OUTREACH

2017 – Present	Board member, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society
2019	Invited speaker, Franklin Bird Club
2016, 2018	Invited speaker, Zahner Conservation Lectures, Highlands Biological Foundation
2017	Invited lecture for conservation biology class, Center for Life Enrichment
2016	Invited speaker, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society
2015	Birding Skills Workshop, United High School birding club, Laredo, Texas
2014 – 2015	Volunteer with United High School birding club, Laredo, Texas
2014 – 2015	Organizing committee, Laredo Birding Festival
2014 – 2015	Member, Monte Mucho Audubon Society
2011 – 2013	Volunteered with international students, Cranwell International Center, Virginia Tech

MEMBERSHIPS

2019 – Present	Bsal Surveillance Working Group
2017 – Present	Society for Conservation Biology
2013 – Present	Wilson Ornithological Society
2010 – Present	American Ornithological Society
2017 – 2019	Georgia Academy of Sciences
2008 – 2013	Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech
2005 – 2007, 2010 – 2013	Cooper Ornithological Society
2012	Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology

OTHER EXPERIENCES AS RESEARCH ASSISTANT/FIELD TECHNICIAN

Seasonal, 2006 – 2008	Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Mornington Sanctuary, Australia Conservation, physiological ecology, and breeding biology of finches
Jun – Aug 2006	International Wildlife Consultants, Ltd. – Mongolia Conservation of saker falcon (<i>Falco cherrug</i>)
Mar – May 2006	Max Planck Institute – Mornington Sanctuary, Australia Behavioral ecology of purple-crowned fairywren (<i>Malurus coronatus</i>)
Nov 2005 – Mar 2006	Australian National University – Northern Territory, Australia Behavioral ecology of pheasant coucal (<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>)
Apr – Oct 2005	U.S. Forest Service – Redwood Sciences Laboratory, California Constant-effort mist-netting of songbirds, small owls, hummingbirds
Jun – Aug 2003	National Audubon Society – Seabird Restoration Program, Maine Conservation of seabirds