

Olga Milenkaya

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015 – Present Assistant Professor of Biology *tenure track*
Program Coordinator of Sustainability Minor
Young Harris College, 1 College Street, Young Harris, Georgia, USA
- 2014 Biology Instructor *tenure track*
Laredo Community College, Laredo, Texas, USA (Hispanic Serving Institution)
- 2008 – 2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant & Graduate Research Assistant
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D. Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA
Validating body condition indices as indicators of individual quality: does condition explain intraspecific variation in reproductive success and survival among crimson finches (*Neochmia phaeton*)? Advisor: Jeffrey R. Walters
- 2003 B.A. Environmental Studies, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, North Carolina, USA

TEACHING

I have honed my craft and deepened my passion for teaching through my varied teaching experiences. For example, I have taught a wide range of classes in different types of tertiary institutions, including a small liberal arts college, a community college, and an R1 research university. I have taught and continue to teach students from diverse backgrounds and with differing academic competencies, and I do so with compassion, purposefulness and a large toolkit of varying pedagogical approaches.

Teaching evaluations, syllabi and assignments are available upon request.

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE (2015 – PRESENT)

Courses for Biology Majors

Intro General Biology I + Lab BIOL 1107
Intro General Biology II + Lab BIOL 1108
Conservation Biology + Lab BIOL 3201
Ecology + Lab BIOL 4101
Vertebrate Zoology + Lab co-taught, BIOL 3801
Animal Behavior BIOL 3701
Independent Study: Captive Animal Biology
Special Topics: Ornithology

Courses for Non-Science Majors

Organismal Biology + Lab BIOL 1104
Ecological & Environmental Studies + Lab
BIOL 2250
Intro Environmental Studies & Sustainability
ENVS 1102

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE (2014)

Biology for Science Majors I + Lab BIOL 1306
Biology for Science Majors II + Lab BIOL 1307
Biology for Non-Science Majors I + Lab BIOL 1308

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT AT VIRGINIA TECH (2008 – 2013)

Lab Courses

Ornithology Lab co-taught, BIOL 4404
Principles of Biology Lab BIOL 1015

Guest Lectures

Avian Mating Systems, Avian Conservation,
Life History, Population Biology, Conservation

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* Mentee, former field assistant

- 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.
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>
- 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.
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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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, USA.
- 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, USA.

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, USA.
- NOTE:** travel award (see *Awards* below)
- 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, USA.
- 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, USA.
- 2017 **Milenkaya O**. Validating body condition indices as indicators of individual quality: Does condition explain intraspecific variation in reproductive success and survival among crimson finches (*Neochmia phaeton*)? Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, USA. **Invited research seminar presentation.**
- 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, USA.
- 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, USA.
- 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.
- Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Interpreting condition indices as individual quality: a cautionary tale. Poster presentation, VT Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.
- 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, USA.
- 2011 **Milenkaya O**, JR Walters. Variation in avian health parameters across age, sex, year and breeding stage. Poster presentation, VT Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.
- 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.

MENTORSHIP

Mentored undergraduate students in Biology Major independent research projects.

- Six students in two years, including two projects that are currently in progress
- All students who have completed their projects ($n = 4$) presented their research at professional conferences (see *Presentations* above and *Awards* below)
- I mentor students throughout the scientific process, including literature review, experimental design, field work and data management, data analysis, scientific writing, and presentation

Mentored former field assistant in writing article (see *Peer-Reviewed Publications* above).

Mentored one undergraduate student in Sustainability Minor capstone project.

Mentored several students in Honors Program projects.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017 – Present	Program Coordinator of Sustainability Minor, Young Harris College Includes leadership in program development & assessment
2017 – Present	Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee, Young Harris College
2016 – 2018	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
2012 – Present	Peer-review manuscripts: <i>PLOS ONE, Restoration Ecology, Wildlife Society Bulletin, Journal of Avian Biology, Bird Conservation International, Australian Field Ornithology</i>
2015 – 2016	Student Conduct Committee, Young Harris College
2016	Biology Search Committee, Young Harris College
2015	Honor Council Jury, Young Harris College
2014	General Education Committee, Laredo Community College
2012 – 2013	Undergraduate Research Awards Committee, Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech
2010 – 2013	Peer-review grants, Graduate Research Development Program, Virginia Tech
2008 – 2013	Member, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech
2010 – 2012	Social Chair, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech

AWARDS & GRANTS

* Awarded to undergraduate student mentee

2018	Travel awards, Georgia Academy of Sciences (granted to two students)*
2017, 2018	Most Valuable Professor, awarded by graduating senior student athlete
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
2000	Community Service Scholarship, Warren Wilson College

MEMBERSHIPS

2010 – Present	American Ornithological Society (formerly AOU)
2013 – Present	Wilson Ornithological Society
2017 – Present	Society for Conservation Biology
2017 – Present	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

OUTREACH

2017 – Present	Board member, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society
2017, 2018	Invited lecture for conservation biology class, Center for Life Enrichment
2016	Invited speaker, Zahner Conservation Lectures, Highlands Biological Foundation
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