

# Olya Milenkaya

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019 – Present	Assistant* Professor of Conservation Biology Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa NC	Long-term contract system * unranked 2019 – 2022
2015 – 2019	Assistant Professor of Biology Young Harris College, Young Harris GA	Tenure track
2014	Instructor of Biology Laredo Community College, Laredo TX	Tenure track
2008 – 2013	Graduate Teaching & Research Assistant Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA	Graduate student

## EDUCATION

2013	Ph.D.	Biological Sciences	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, VA
2003	B.A.	Environmental Studies	Warren Wilson College	Swannanoa, NC

## TEACHING

### WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

General Biology + Lab (×3)  
Ecology + Lab (×2)  
Research Design (×3)  
Conservation Biology (×3)  
Ornithology + Lab (×2)  
Animal Behavior (×2)  
Special Topics: Invasion Biology (×1)

### YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

General Biology I + Lab, science majors (×2)  
General Biology II + Lab, science majors (×6)  
General Biology II + Lab, non-science majors (×1)  
Conservation Biology + Lab (×4)  
Environmental Studies & Sustainability (×3)  
Ecology + Lab (×2)  
Animal Behavior (×2)  
Ecological & Environmental Studies + Lab (×1)  
Vertebrate Zoology + Lab (×1) co-taught  
Independent Study: Captive Animal Biology (×1)  
Special Topic: Ornithology (×1)

### LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

General Biology I + Lab, non-science majors (×1)  
General Biology I + Lab, science majors (×1)  
General Biology II + Lab, science majors (×1)

### VIRGINIA TECH

Ornithology Lab (×3)  
General Biology I Lab (×2)

## PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2022 (in press) **Milenkaya O**, González-Bernal E, Cabrera-Guzmán E. "Reptile Conservation in Oaxaca." Chapter in: McKay JL. *Reptiles of Oaxaca*. Pelagic Publishing.

## PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH ARTICLES

\*\* Mentee, former field assistant

- 2021 McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**, Langner C. Reptile range extensions from the Mexican state of Oaxaca. *Sauria* 43(2): 76–84.
- 2020 McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. The Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) Established in Natural Vegetation of Oaxaca, Mexico. *Reptiles & Amphibians: Conservation and Natural History* 27(3): 479–484.
- 2019 McKay JL, González Bernal E, **Milenkaya O**, García-Padilla E, Castro-Franco R. Dichotomous key for the species of the torquatus group of the genus *Sceloporus* (Lacertilia: Phrynosomatidae). *Bulletin of the Spanish Herpetological Association* 30(1): 54–60.
- 2019 McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. 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**, Walters JR. Male-male pair bonding, nesting and egg incubation in a wild passerine. *Journal of Ornithology* 159(1): 307–309.
- 2018 Somaweera R, Lilley R, Putra A, Ganz P, Govendan PN, McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. Additions to the herpetofaunal diversity of the Island of Bali, Indonesia. *Sauria* 40(1): 75–86.
- 2017 McKay JL, Marantelli P, **Milenkaya O**. *Apalone spinifera* (Spiny Softshell). *Herpetological Review* 48(1): 121.
- 2016 McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. *Stegonotus batjanensis*: diet. *Herpetological Review* 47(2): 316–317.
- 2016 **Milenkaya O**, McKay JL. Observation in the Wild of the Poorly-Known *Varanus yuwonoi*. *Biawak* 10(1): 13–17.
- 2015 **Milenkaya O**, Catlin D, Legge S, Walters JR. Body condition indices predict reproductive success but not survival in a sedentary, tropical bird. *PLOS ONE* 10(8): e0136582.
- 2014 Catlin DH, **Milenkaya O**, Hunt KL, Friederich MJ, Fraser JD. 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, Walters JR. 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, Walters JR. 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, Walters JR. 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, Magrath R. Breaking the rules: sex roles and genetic mating system of the pheasant coucal. *Oecologia* 167: 413–425.
- 2010 Hall ML, Murphy SA, Churchwell R, **Milenkaya O**. 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, Penrose K. *Varanus mitchelli* (Mitchell's Water Monitor) diet and foraging behavior. *Herpetological Review* 41: 233–234.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Not peer-reviewed

\* Mentee, undergraduate student

- 2022 **Milenkaya O**, Baron D\*. "Annual Report: Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program at Lake James". Submitted to US Fish & Wildlife, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Lake James Environmental Association.
- 2022 North American Bsal Task Force. "A North American strategic plan to prevent and control invasions of the lethal salamander pathogen *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*". Available at salamanderfungus.org. Contributing authors (in alphabetical order): Adams M, Bletz M, Christman M, Forzán M, Grant E, Gray M, Harris R, Jones J, Kerby J, Klein P, Koo M, Mandica M, **Milenkaya O**, Nanjappa P, Olson D, Parra G, Pekarik C, Provencher J, Rebollar E, Shepack A, Sprague L, Waddle H, Walke J, Woodhams D.
- 2022 North American Bsal Task Force. "North American Bsal implementation plan". Available at salamanderfungus.org. Contributing authors (in alphabetical order): Adams M, Bletz M, Christman M, Forzán M, Grant E, Gray M, Harris R, Jones J, Kerby J, Klein P, Koo M, Mandica M, **Milenkaya O**, Nanjappa P, Olson D, Parra G, Pekarik C, Provencher J, Rebollar E, Shepack A, Sprague L, Waddle H, Walke J, Woodhams D.
- 2020, 2021 North American Bsal Task Force. "Annual Report". Contributing authors include **Milenkaya O**, among many others who are not listed in the report. Available at salamanderfungus.org.

## MENTORSHIP

### WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

2019 – Present

- Currently mentoring alum Daniel Baron '22 in preparing manuscript for publication. This was Daniel's NSURS project. Manuscript currently *in prep*.
- Recruited & mentored Kat Strickland to apply for the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, a prestigious, two-year, paid program for undergraduate students about the intersection of conservation and social justice. Kat was accepted to this program in Washington state, attended, was enthusiastic upon returning, and will continue with the program during summer 2023.
- Received external grant to fully fund internship of one WWC student (Daniel Baron) with local NGO & supervised the project (2021 – 2022). Recently applied for external grant to fund Daniel to continue as a Research Assistant on the project. Grant decision is forthcoming.
- Recruitment, training, and mentoring of 5 – 6 students each spring as part of "Team Chickadee," a group of field research assistants who collect data on 100 bird boxes around campus in support of various NSURS research projects.
- Co-supervisor, Conservation Biology Sub-Crew of the BIO/ENS Work Crew: 2 student workers (2021 – Present)
- Mentoring of NSURS capstone research projects. To date, served as advisor to 12 students and committee member to an additional 21 students
- Mentoring for students' professional development:
  - Numerous successful internal and external grants written by student mentees
  - 3 student presentations of their capstone research at national conferences
  - 1 student presentation of their internship at a local symposium
  - 1 student won external scholarship from NC Wildlife Federation
- Major academic advising to ~15+ students each semester

## MENTORSHIP (continued)

### YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

2015 – 2019

- Mentored 8 students in their capstone research projects over four 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
- One student presented at a national conference (Dunn L, Wilson Ornithological Society)
- One student won institutional research grant
- Mentored one student in Sustainability Minor capstone project

### ADDITIONALLY

- Mentored former field assistant in writing & publishing research article (Kindel et al. 2018)
- Mentored several students in Honors Program projects at Laredo Community College (2014)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

All peer-reviewed

\* Mentee, undergraduate student

\*\* Mentee, former field assistant

- 2022 Hyman O, **Milenkaya O**, Mosher B, Koo MS, Walke J, Grear DA, Greenspan S, Adams M. SNAPS: A Student Network for Amphibian Pathogen Surveillance. Lightning talk presentation. Amphibian Disease Meeting, held virtually. NOTE: Date forthcoming November 10, 2022
- 2022 Spyrison T\*, McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. Egg Concealment as a Defensive Response in Carolina Chickadees. Poster presentation, Student Research in Progress. The Wildlife Society, Spokane WA. NOTE: Date forthcoming November 7, 2022
- 2022 Baron D\*, McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. Response of native birds to a novel competitor that utilizes nest predation is fierce, but rare. Oral presentation, Student Research in Progress. The Wilson Ornithological Society, Santa Fe NM. NOTE: Student Travel Award
- 2021 Baron D\*, McKay JL, **Milenkaya O**. Behavioral Response of Native Birds to a Novel Competitor That Utilizes Nest Predation. Poster presentation, Student Research in Progress. The Wildlife Society, held virtually with live Q&A.
- 2021 **Milenkaya O**, Mosher BA, Walke JB, Hyman O, Greenspan SE, Koo MS, Grear DA, Adams MJ. A Novel Approach to a Novel Pathogen: Student-Powered Surveillance of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*. Oral presentation. Joint Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association and the European Wildlife Disease Association, held virtually.
- 2020 **Milenkaya O**, Mosher BA, Walke JB, Hyman O, Greenspan SE, Koo MS, Grear DA, Adams MJ. A Novel Approach to a Novel Pathogen: Student-Powered Surveillance of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*. Oral presentation, Bsal Symposium at the Joint Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association and the European Wildlife Disease Association. NOTE: Paper submitted & accepted, but conference was later cancelled due to Covid-19.
- 2019 **Milenkaya O**, Crowell A\*, Eden K\*, McKay JL. Just a few Carolina chickadees respond adaptively to competitive house wren in area of relatively recent contact. Oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society, Cape May NJ.
- 2019 Crowell A\*, McKay JL, Eden K\*, **Milenkaya O**. 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 GA. NOTE: Travel award

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- 2018 Dunn L\*, McKay JL, Aviña LM\*, **Milenkaya O**. 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 TN.
- 2018 Muldoon MM\*, **Milenkaya O**. Population-level response of Carolina chickadees to the expansion of house wrens in Appalachian Georgia. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, Carrollton GA. NOTE: Travel award
- 2018 Aviña LM\*, McKay JL, Dunn L\*, **Milenkaya O**. Parental anti-predatory behaviour of Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) based on clutch size manipulation. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, Carrollton GA. NOTE: Travel award
- 2018 Cochran EE\*, McKay JL, Aviña LM\*, Dunn L\*, **Milenkaya O**. Variation in structural nest properties and their effects on reproductive success in Carolina chickadees. Poster presentation, Georgia Academy of Sciences, Carrollton GA.
- 2018 Dunn L\*, McKay JL, Aviña LM\*, **Milenkaya O**. 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, Carrollton GA.
- 2013 **Milenkaya O**, Walters JR. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: condition indices are repeatable but do not predict reproductive success or survival. Oral presentation, Wilson Ornithological Society, Williamsburg VA. NOTE: Best graduate student oral presentation
- 2012 **Milenkaya O**, Walters JR. Condition indices among Crimson Finches are repeatable but do not predict reproductive success or survival. Oral presentation, North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver BC Canada.
- 2012 **Milenkaya O**, Walters JR. Condition indices do not predict survival in a wild passerine. Poster presentation, Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology, Charleston SC.
- 2010 **Milenkaya O**, Legge S, Walters JR. 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, Walters JR. Breeding biology and life history traits of a tropical granivore, the Crimson Finch. Oral presentation, Australasian Ornithological Conference, Armidale NSW Australia.

## OTHER ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Not peer-reviewed

\* Mentee, undergraduate student

- 2022 Baron D\*, **Milenkaya O**. Bald Eagle Monitoring at Lake James 2021 – 2022. Poster presentation. Lake James Watershed Symposium, Morganton NC. NOTE: Date forthcoming November 2, 2022
- 2021 **Milenkaya O**. Conservation in the Context of Novel Communities. Invited research seminar presentation. Biology Department of Eastern Washington University, Spokane WA, live & virtual.
- 2020 **Milenkaya O**, Mosher BA, Walke JB, Hyman O, Greenspan SE, Koo MS, Grear DA, Vredenburg V, Adams MJ. Surveillance & Monitoring Working Group. Oral presentation. Annual Meeting of the North American Bsal Task Force, live & virtual.
- 2020 **Milenkaya O**. Conservation in Novel Communities: The Threat of Invasive Species to Native Birds & Salamanders. Invited seminar presentation, Biology and Environmental Sciences Departments, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville NC.
- 2013 **Milenkaya O**, Walters JR. Testing the condition-quality hypothesis: is body condition a meaningful proxy for individual quality? Invited seminar presentation. Radford University, Radford VA.

## AWARDS & GRANTS

\* Awarded to undergraduate student mentees

2022	Invited external grant. Monitoring Bald Eagle Nests at Lake James (2022 – 2023). Lake James Environmental Association. Includes fully funded Research Assistant position for one WWC alum. Applied for \$3,542, granting decision is forthcoming.
2022	Undergraduate Research Funding to attend the annual conference of The Wildlife Society. Warren Wilson College. Applied for \$1,185 and granted \$200, Tabbytha Spyrison* (additional \$575 funded by Biology Department at WWC)
2022	Student Travel Award. The Wildlife Society. Applied for \$500, but it was denied. Tabbytha Spyrison*
2022	Student Travel Award. Wilson Ornithological Society. Applied for \$900 and granted \$400, Daniel Baron*
2022	Sutherland Grant for Undergraduate Research. Warren Wilson College. Applied for \$3,660 and granted \$1,600, Tabbytha Spyrison*
2021	Invited external grant. Monitoring Bald Eagle Nests at Lake James. Lake James Environmental Association. Includes fully funded internship for one WWC student. Applied and granted \$2,475.
2021	Course Release Grant for Faculty Research. Staunch Defenders or Clueless Parents: How Carolina Chickadees Respond to a Novel Threat. Warren Wilson College. Applied and granted course release for Fall 2022.
2021	Undergraduate Research Funding to attend the annual conference of The Wildlife Society. Warren Wilson College. Applied and granted \$100, Daniel Baron*
2021	North Carolina Wildlife Federation scholarship. Applied and granted \$1,000, Daniel Baron*
2021	Sutherland Grant for Undergraduate Research. Warren Wilson College. Applied and granted \$300, Daniel Baron*
2018, 2019	Travel awards, Georgia Academy of Sciences (x3)*
2017, 2018	Most Valuable Professor, awarded by graduating senior student athlete. Young Harris College
2017	Honors Program Research Grant. Young Harris College. Applied and granted \$900*
2015, 2016	Research Grants. Highlands Plateau Audubon Society. Applied and granted \$1,614.
2013	Alexander Wilson Award for best graduate 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 & 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 COLLEGE

### WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

2022 – Present	Member, "Core Team" for SACSCOC 10 Year Reaffirmation process
2022 – Present	Member, Data Science Search Committee
2021 – Present	Faculty Representative, Forum (2-year term). Member, Student-Centred Committee
2021 – Present	Co-supervisor, Conservation Biology Sub-Crew of the BIO/ENS Work Crew
2021 – Present	Member, Global Engagement Office Advisory Committee
2020 – Present	Leader of Conservation Biology Program development & assessment
2019 – Present	Text-a-thon & emailing to recruit prospective students
2021 – 2022	Interim Pre-Vet Advisor
2021 – 2022	Member, Animal Scientist Search Committee
2021, 2022	<i>Auspex</i> reviewer (summer 2021, fall 2022)
2020 – 2021	Co-supervisor, Conservation Biology Club
Spring 2021	Member, Capstone Carnival Planning Committee
Fall 2020	Worked with a small group of Natural Sciences & Mathematics faculty to develop a survey of students in our Division about DEI
Fall 2019	Invited guest lecture in Pete Erb's First Year Seminar class

### YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

2017 – 2019	Program Coordinator, Sustainability Minor: program development & assessment
2017 – 2019	Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee
Fall 2018	Faculty mentor to a new faculty member
Fall 2018	Chair, Biology Search Committee
2015 – 2016	Member, Student Conduct Committee
2016	Member, Biology Search Committee
2015	Member, Honor Council Jury

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2018 – Present	Member, Bsal Surveillance & Monitoring Working Group (part of the North American Bsal Task Force)
2012 – Present	Peer-review manuscripts: <i>PLOS ONE</i> , <i>Restoration Ecology</i> , <i>Journal of Ornithology</i> , <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> , <i>Journal of Avian Biology</i> , <i>Bird Conservation International</i> , <i>Australian Field Ornithology</i>
2020 – 2022	Co-Lead, Bsal Surveillance & Monitoring Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Developed program for the surveillance of Bsal across North America: Student Network for Amphibian Pathogen Surveillance (SNAPS)</li><li>○ Developed assessment tool for SNAPS (WWC IRB #202003001), analysed &amp; presented these data (see <i>Conference Presentations</i> above)</li><li>○ Wrote annual reports &amp; strategic plans</li><li>○ Scheduled, planned, coordinated monthly or twice monthly calls with colleagues across USA, Canada, and Mexico</li><li>○ Created a leadership transition process &amp; recruited new leadership</li></ul>
2017 – 2019	Judged student oral presentations, Wilson Ornithological Society
2017 – 2019	Peer-reviewed abstracts & judge oral presentations, Georgia Academy of Sciences

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION (continued)

- 2016 – 2018 Served on two Master's Thesis Advisory Committees, Western Carolina University
- Traci Ballance: Effects of nest quality on incubation and reproductive success in Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*)
  - Sarah Britton: Indirect effects of a competitor on life history and reproductive traits in a cavity nesting bird
  - Both students successfully defended in 2018

## OUTREACH

- 2021 Invited speaker. New Hope Audubon Society, Chapel Hill NC
- 2020, 2021 Invited speaker. Blue Ridge Audubon Society, Asheville NC
- 2017 – 2019 Board member, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Highlands NC
- 2019 Invited speaker. Franklin Bird Club, Franklin NC
- 2016, 2018 Invited speaker. Zahner Conservation Lectures, Highlands Biological Foundation, Highlands NC
- 2017 Invited lecture. Conservation biology class, Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands NC
- 2016 Invited speaker. Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Highlands NC
- 2015 Birding Skills Workshop, United High School birding club, Laredo TX
- 2014 – 2015 Volunteer with United High School birding club, Laredo TX
- 2014 – 2015 Organizing Committee, Laredo Birding Festival, Laredo TX
- 2014 – 2015 Member, Monte Mucho Audubon Society, Laredo TX
- 2011 – 2013 Volunteered with international students, Cranwell International Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019 – Present Bsal Surveillance & Monitoring Working Group
- 2019 – Present The Wildlife Society
- 2013 – Present Wilson Ornithological Society
- 2010 – Present American Ornithological Society
- 2017 – 2020 Society for Conservation Biology
- 2017 – 2019 Georgia Academy of Sciences
- 2008 – 2013 Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech
- 2005 – '07, 2010 – '13 Cooper Ornithological Society
- 2012 Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology