

# Olga Milenkaya

Avian Ecology Lab  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
4107 Derring Hall (0406), Blacksburg VA 24061  
olm@vt.edu, www.milenkaya.org, +1 540.553.1837  
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## Education

Ph.D. candidate	Biological Sciences	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	2008 – present
B.A.	Environmental Studies	Warren Wilson College	December 2003

## Publications

**Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., and 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.

Maurer, G., Double, M.C., **Milenkaya, O.**, Süsser, M., and R. Magrath. 2011. Breaking the rules: sex roles and genetic mating system of the pheasant coucal. *Oecologia* 167: 413–425.

Hall, M.L., Murphy, S.A., Churchwell, R.T., and **O. Milenkaya**. 2010. Interspecific feeding across feeding guilds – male purple-crowned fairy-wren feeds nestling crimson finches. *Corella* 34: 49–50.

Doody, J.S., **Milenkaya, O.**, Rhind, D., Eastley, T., and K. Penrose. 2010. *Varanus mitchelli* (Mitchell's Water Monitor) diet and foraging behavior. *Herpetological Review* 41: 233–234.

## Presentations

**Milenkaya, O.** and J.R. Walters. 2012. Interpreting condition indices as individual quality: a cautionary tale. Poster presentation, Virginia Tech Research Day, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA.

**Milenkaya, O.** and 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.

**Milenkaya, O.** and 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.

**Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., and 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.

**Milenkaya, O.**, Legge, S., and 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.

## Teaching

Instructor of Ornithology Laboratory	Spring 2011, 2012
Instructor of General Biology Laboratory	Fall 2008
Guest lecture in Ecology BIOL 2804 "Life History"	Spring 2012
Guest lecture in Ecology BIOL 2804 "Biodiversity and Conservation"	Fall 2011
Guest lecture in Ornithology BIOL 4404 "Avian Conservation"	Spring 2011

## Sponsorships and Awards

Charlotte Mangum Student Support Program, Society for Integrated and Comparative Biology	Fall 2011
Awarded conference registration fee waiver: \$99	
Postgraduate Student Sponsorship, Birds Australia WA	2009
Amount applied for and granted: \$500	
Ralph E. Carlson Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology, Virginia Tech	2009
Amount granted toward 2009–2010 academic year: \$900	
Alton F. Pfaff Cup Award nominee, Warren Wilson College	2004
Community Service Scholarship, Warren Wilson College	2000
Amount granted toward 2000–2001 academic year: \$2000	

## Memberships

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

## Service

Volunteer with international students, Cranwell International Center, Virginia Tech	Aug 2011 – present
Peer review grants, Graduate Research Development Program, Virginia Tech	Aug 2010 – present
Social Chair, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech	Aug 2010 – present
Active member, Biology Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech	Aug 2008 – present

## Professional Experience

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