2018 Student Research Awards

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AWARDS

2018 Student Research Awards

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) proudly recognizes the students who received research awards for 2018. These awards are not ranked but honor research that advances our understanding of birds and their conservation. The 2018 awardees are listed below (in alphabetical order by award's last name and recipient's last name).

DONALD L. BLEITZ AWARD

Austin Spence, University of Connecticut
Using molecular scatology to reveal novel biotic interactions induced by climate change

HERBERT AND BETTY CARNES AWARD

Heather Skeen, University of Chicago
Characterizing the gut microbiome of Kirtland’s Warblers on the wintering and breeding grounds

JOSEPH GRINNELL AWARD

Jessica Hernandez, Virginia Tech
Sexually transmitted microbes as a cost to extra-pair fertilizations in female Tree Swallows

WERNER AND HILDEGARD HESSE AWARD

Stephanie Aguillon, Cornell University
Using hybridization to understand the genomic underpinnings of phenotypic differences
Juan Benito, University of Bath
The origin of the modern bird body plan: Cretaceous Ornithurae from the Old World
Gemma Clucas, University of New Hampshire
Multi-colony analysis of the diet of adult Atlantic Puffins with novel DNA metabarcoding techniques
Brittany Copping, University of Tennessee
Flock density and its influences on social and vocal complexity
Nikole Freeman, University of Guelph
Carry-over effects of early-life food availability on stress physiology and survival: A supplementation experiment in a winter breeding passerine
Chauncey Gadek, University of New Mexico

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Replicated adaptation to altitude in marsh-dwelling songbirds: A natural experiment
Rebecca Garlinger, Villanova University
Sociality and dominance: Behavioral mechanisms in a moving songbird hybrid zone
Kathryn Grabenstein, University of Colorado - Boulder
Disturbance-mediated hybridization: An experimental assessment of species' barriers
Haley Hanson, University of South Florida
Epigenetic potential in native and introduced populations of House Sparrows (Passer domesticus)
Michael Hanson, Yale University
The evolutionary origins and development of the avian cranial kinetic system
Suzanne Hartley, North Carolina State University
Eggshell characteristics as predictors of heavy metal concentration in House Sparrow eggs
Johanna Harvey, University of Connecticut
Evolution of host defenses against introduced parasites of Darwin's finches
Shanta Hejmadi, University of Minnesota
Evolutionary history and extinction risk in raptors (Falconiformes and Accipitriformes): A new framework for integrating phylogeny and community assembly in risk assessment and conservation
Amanda Hund, University of Colorado
The role of early environment in the expression of a lifelong melanin-based sexual trait
John Jones, Tulane University
Proximate mechanisms of female multimodal signal expression in a tropical songbird
Todd Jones, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Do pre- to post-fledging carryover effects drive patterns of differential post-fledging survival in altricial songbirds?
Sarah Khalil, Tulane University
Flexible and variable carotenoid-based ornamentation in the Red-backed Fairywren: Proximate mechanisms and adaptive consequences
Shelby Lawson, University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign
Investigating the neural and perceptual basis of functional reference calls in Yellow Warblers
Anna Lello-Smith, Cornell University
Understanding drivers of avian community assembly in regenerating cattle pastures
Marisa Martinez, Florida Atlantic University
Predicting wading bird foraging habitat in dynamic intertidal systems
Molly McDermott, University of Colorado–Boulder
How does non-breeding environment affect sexual signaling? A comparative analysis in two subspecies of Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)
Lucas Pavan, Stanford University
Avian community response to patterns of defaunation in Central Africa and its effect on understorey seed predation
Subir Shakya, Louisiana State University
An investigation of the genetics of coloration in Black-headed Bulbul (Pycnonotus atriceps) of Southeast Asia
Naima Starkloff, University at Albany, SUNY
Geographic variation in host immunogenetics and malarial parasite infection in breeding populations of Catharus thrushes
Andrew Stillman, University of Connecticut
An empirical test of two hypotheses explaining patch-based population dynamics in the Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

Sheela Turbek, University of Colorado–Boulder
Explaining mismatches between genetic and phenotypic divergence in a rapid radiation of finch-like birds

MEWALDT-KING AWARD
Vitek Jirinec, Louisiana State University
Does microclimate change explain declines of terrestrial insectivores in central Amazonia?

MARGARET MORSE NICE AWARD
Fernanda Duque, Georgia State University
Diversification of vocal communication in Andean hummingbirds

JOSSELYN VAN TYNE MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD
Stefanie Siller, Columbia University
Epigenetic mediation of early environmental influences on the stress response

ALEXANDER WETMORE MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD
Marion Donald, Rice University
Avian and floral microbiomes as an early warning signal of avian pollinator loss in fragmented forests

Jordan Herman, University of Utah
Do ecologically distinct parasites have interacting effects on host fitness?

Benjamin Lagasse, University of Colorado–Denver
Assessing an Arctic-breeding shorebird's capacity for adapting to environmental change along three major flyways of the world

Kara Leimberger, Oregon State University
Effects of keystone species loss on a tropical plant–hummingbird network

Brian Trevelline, University of Pittsburgh
Dietary shifts over the annual cycle of a Neotropical migratory songbird