

Amy Miles Yanagitsuru, PhD

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Department of Biology and Earth Systems Science, Wilkes University

Education

2016 - 2023	Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative Ecology, University of California, Davis Dissertation title: "Physiological, Behavioral, and Ecological Perspectives on Seabird Reproductive Biology"
2011- 2015	Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, with honors in biology, Bryn Mawr College Thesis title: "The Effect of Temperature on Leech Swimming Behavior"

Professional Development and Research

2026-present	Visiting Assistant Professor ~ Wilkes University Teaching both upper and lower-level courses; conducting research on long-term antagonistic and reproductive relationships in birds, mentoring students, securing funding, and performing service to the department and university.
2024-present	Adjunct Professor ~ Wilkes University Teaching BIO 105: The Biological World, conducting research, and mentoring students
2023 - 2024	Postdoctoral Scholar ~ University of Nevada Reno Led research on house wren microbiome on an urban-rural gradient; conducted meta-analysis of avian urban tolerance and city characteristics.
2019, 2021	Graduate Student Researcher ~ Point Blue Conservation Science Led research projects on Southeast Farallon Island, CA
2018	Intern ~ Point Blue Conservation Science Conducted ecological monitoring of seabird populations on Southeast Farallon Island, CA
2015	Research Assistant ~ Operation Wallacea Biodiversity research in dry deciduous forest and coral reef communities in Madagascar
2014	NSF REU ~ University of California, Davis Developed a noninvasive colony monitoring method for estimating storm petrel burrow occupation on Bon Portage Island, Nova Scotia
2013, 2016	Field Technician ~ University of California, Davis Behavioral studies on Leach's storm-petrel on Bon Portage Island, Nova Scotia

Teaching

Courses Taught		
Coming Spring 2026	BIO 346: Animal Behavior ~ Wilkes University	
Fall 2026- Present	BIO 321: Mammalian Physiology ~ Wilkes University	
Fall 2024-Present	BIO 105: The Biological World ~ Wilkes University	
Guest Lectures		
Spring 2025	BIO 346: Animal Behavior ~ Wilkes University	
Spring 2023	BIOL 379: Biology & Conservation of Birds ~ Binghamton University	
Winter 2022	WFC 130: Physiological Ecology of Wildlife ~ University of California, Davis	

Grants and Awards

2026	Kessel Fellowship ~ American Ornithological Society	\$15,000
2026	Mentoring Grant ~ Wilkes University	\$9,559.00
2025	Adjunct Faculty Award ~ Wilkes University Teacher Recognition Effectiveness Committee	
2025	Mentoring Grant ~ Wilkes University	\$9,108.40
2021	Graduate Group in Ecology Fellowship ~ University of California, Davis	\$12,740.70
2021	Graduate Studies Travel Award ~ University of California, Davis	\$500
2020	Alan Baldrige Award ~ Meyers Ocean Trust	\$500

2020	Dr. Earl B. And Ethel M. Meyers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust Award ~ Meyers Ocean Trust	\$2000
2020	Henry A. Jastro Memorial Fellowship ~ University of California, Davis	\$3900
2019	Henry A. Jastro Memorial Fellowship ~ University of California, Davis	\$3000
2019	Student Research Grant ~ Animal Behavior Society	\$1500
2018	Bloom-Hayes Ecological Research Grant ~ Sea and Sage Audubon Society	\$1500
2017	Travel Grant ~ Pacific Seabird Group	\$600
2015	Best Poster ~ 42 nd Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting	

Publications

In Review

Ivan Provinciato, **Amy Yanagitsuru**, Ava Ciaccia, Olivia Oldham, Jenny Ouyang. Mechanistic regulation of begging behavior due to experimental food supplementation across an urbanization gradient. *Hormones and Behavior*.

Amy Yanagitsuru, Davide Baldan, Jennifer Heppner, Ivan Provinciato, Jenny Ouyang. The key to bird-friendly cities: natural areas and equitable park access. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

Ivan Provinciato, Ava Ciaccia, Jennifer J. Heppner, **Amy Yanagitsuru**, Jenny Q Ouyang, Davide Baldan. Resource-dependent flexibility in reproductive decisions across an urbanization gradient. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Accepted

Amy Yanagitsuru*, Ivan Provinciato*, Jenny Ouyang, Arley Muth. Who agrees to review a manuscript for *Ecology and Evolution*? It depends on who asks. *Ecology and Evolution*.

*shared first author

Published

Amy Yanagitsuru, Chris Tyson, Frédéric Angelier, Mike Johns, Thomas Hahn, John Wingfield, Haley Land-Miller, Amanda Spears, Rebecca Forney, Elisha Hull. 2024. Experience and trust: The benefits of mate familiarity are realized through sex-specific specialization of parental roles in Cassin's auklet. *Royal Society Open Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.241258>

Amy Yanagitsuru, Chris Tyson, Pete Warzybok, Amanda Spears, Sean Gee, Elisha Hull. 2024. Limited Success of Radio Frequency Identification Technology in Locating Nests of the Ashy Storm-Petrel. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.3996/JFWM-24-010>

Tyson, Chris W., Jennings, Sarah L., Hoover, Brian H., and **Miles, Amy E.** (2022) Energetic constraints give rise to sex-specific provisioning in the monomorphic Leach's storm-petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*. *Journal of Avian Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jav.02904>

Presentations

Amy Yanagitsuru, Thomas P. Hahn, John Wingfield, Haley Land-Miller, Amanda Spears, Mike Johns, Frédéric Angelier, Chris Tyson, Rebecca Forney, Elisha Hull. "Physiological and behavioral mechanisms underlying the mate familiarity effect in Cassin's auklet". 2024. Oral. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA and the 51st Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

Amy Miles, Thomas P. Hahn, Marcel Holyoak, John Wingfield, Heather Major, Mike Johns, Elisha Hull. “Generalists, Specialists, and the Future: Understanding how diet diversity shapes phenological adjustment in the era of climate change”. 2023. Oral. 50th Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

Amy Miles, Chris Tyson, Thomas P. Hahn, Elisha Hull, John Wingfield, Frédéric Angelier, Mike Johns. “Physiological mechanisms of benefits of pair experience in Cassin’s auklet under two oceanic regimes”. 2022. Oral. 59th Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting, San José, Costa Rica.

Amy Miles, Chris Tyson, Thomas P. Hahn, Elisha Hull, Frédéric Angelier, Mike Johns. “For Richer, For Poorer: Mechanisms Behind the Mate Familiarity Effect in a Variable Environment”. 2021. Oral. 58th Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting, and the 3rd World Seabird Conference, virtual.

Amy Miles, Thomas Hahn, Elisha Hull. “Breeding in an Unpredictable Environment: Effects of Foraging Niche Breadth on Breeding Phenology”. 2018. Poster. 45th Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting, La Paz, México.

Joshua Hincks*, **Amy Miles***, Marcelle Leuscott, Gabrielle Nevitt. “Using CO2 Concentration as a Non-invasive Technique to Determine Occupancy of Burrows in Leach’s Storm Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*”. 2015. Poster. 42nd Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting, San José, CA. *shared first author

Outreach and Service

2025	Participant ~ We’re Empowered by Science Developed and led educational laboratory activities for middle and high school students
2025	Educator ~ Lehman Sanctuary Gave an educational presentation on owls to a first grade class
2022	Strike Captain ~ UAW 2865 Organized and led remote picketing for the historic UC-wide academic worker strike.
2021	Contributor ~ Bay Nature Wrote for the “Encounters” section of the Spring 2021 issue
2020	Guest Host ~ Crittercast Podcast episode 55, May 11 2020
2017 - <i>present</i>	Scientist Pen-Pal ~ Letters to a Pre-Scientist Exchanged letters with middle school students in low-income school districts.

Undergraduate Mentorship

2026- <i>present</i>	Jean Bonn, Aidan Hannon, Joe Sokolowski, Autumn Bullek, Aiden Morgan ~ Wilkes University
2025-2026	Andrew Murawski, Araiya Brown, and Jean Bonn ~ Wilkes University
2020-2021	Alexis Lundquist and Rachel Hirota ~ University of California, Davis
2019-2020	Matthew Conner and Marlena Sanchez ~ University of California, Davis
2018-2020	Sophia M. Grant-Counard ~ University of California, Davis