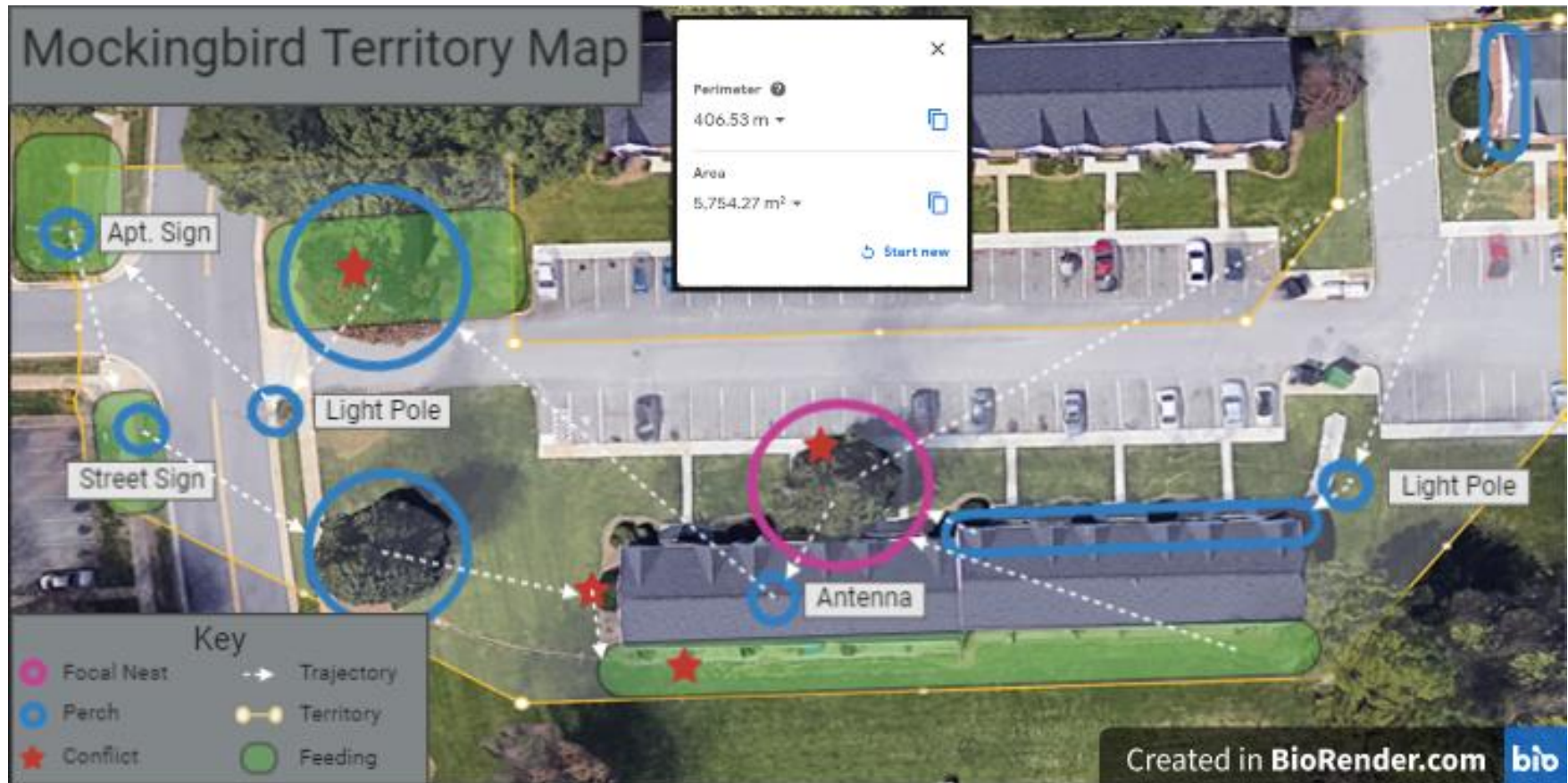


Sean Brantley



- 1) I think that the Mockingbird pair that resides in this territory choose this location for its abundance of food and perch diversity. My apartment complex is littered with anthills and other small insects. This habitat aligns with the reading that suggests that the primary food source of mockingbird birds is insects during the summer mating season. Secondly, the tree that appeared to be the focal point of

the territory is tall, isolated, and surrounded by other similarly tall vantage points. I believe the combination of these two conditions make this territory energetically worth defending for the mockingbird pair that I observed. If I were part of this mockingbird pair, I would want fewer birds sharing my area. While it looked like other species were attracted to different food sources, like bird feeders, many birds entered the pair's territory, and even worse, the tree where I suspect their nest resides.

- 2) The red stars on my territory map are where I saw the mockingbird display territorial behavior. The star at the focal tree represents one of the mockingbirds attacking a crow as it tried to approach the tree. There was no territorial signaling that I saw because it started in the tree, but the aerial assault was a sign of disapproval. The second star in the northern feeding area was between a robin and the mockingbird. In this case, the robin was the aggressor, but after the short dive-bomb attack, the two parted and fed near each other. I did see the wing dip movement several times during this feeding. The third star on the west side of the apartment represents a second altercation with a crow that started at the tree slightly further west and ended at the shrub. Again, the crow began coming into the area and was intercepted in the air by the mockingbird. Surprisingly, the small amount of aggression turned the big bird away. The last star in the feeding area was a display directed towards me. As I rounded the corner of the apartment, trying not to lose the bird, it noticed me and started dropping its wings repeatedly while feeding. After a while, however, I also observed the wing lifting in a circular motion indicative of feeding, so I assumed my presence was no longer a bother.