

# Transfer Learning with Semi-Supervised Dataset Annotation for Birdcall Classification

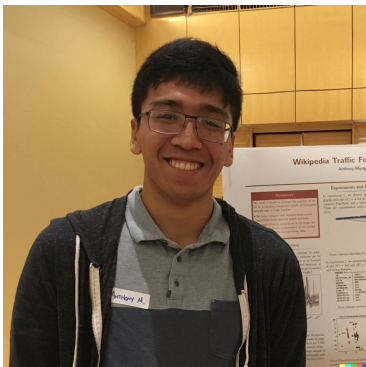
BirdCLEF 2023, Team DS@GT

Anthony Miyaguchi  
[acmiyaguchi@gatech.edu](mailto:acmiyaguchi@gatech.edu)

Georgia Institute of Technology

2023-09-11

# Who am I?



- A Software Engineer
  - 5 years as a Data Engineer at Mozilla
  - 1.5 years as a Software Engineer at Planet Labs
- OMSCS, matriculated Spring 2022
  - B.S. Computer Science and Engineering from UCLA 2016
  - Graduate Certificate from Stanford Center for Professional Development (SCPD) 2018
- Career focus on scalable data systems and machine learning

TBD

## Recruitment

- Built a team of 4 people from DS@GT in Spring 2023
- 3 masters, 1 undergraduate

## Technical Approach

- Retrain using embeddings from older models
- Build a process for machine-assisted dataset annotation
- Toy with sequence models (RNNs, Transformers, etc.)



Figure 1: DS@GT: a student-run data science organization

## [Closed] Recruiting for DS@GT BirdCLEF 2023 Competition Team #34



Anthony Miyaguchi

3 months ago in [Seeking Teammates](#)



STAR



[WATCHING](#)

263

VIEWS



I'm Anthony Miyaguchi, an OMSCS student in my 3rd semester and a professional software engineer. I ran a [projects group](#) last year for BirdCLEF 2022 as part of the [Data Science @ Georgia Tech \(DS@GT\)](#) club, where we [won best working notes](#) in the Kaggle competition and \$2,500 in GCP credits. This year, I am recruiting 2-3 team members for the [BirdCLEF 2023](#) competition, which will open sometime in February. The goal is to win the working notes competition this year and to present our work at [CLEF 2023 in Thessaloniki, Greece](#).

Figure 2: A post on the OMSCS Research EdStem board.

# Why is audio classification challenging?

**xeno-canto**  
Sharing bird sounds from around the world

Search recordings... Search

Advanced Search  
Tips

About ▾ Explore ▾ Upload Sounds Forum Mysteries Articles

Log in / Register

**XC342210 • Hawaiian Coot • *Fulica alai***

**XC342210**



0:00 0:08

Hawaiian Coot (*Fulica alai*) - call  
Jim Holmes

**Recording data**

Recordist	Jim Holmes
Date	2016-11-09
Time	08:00
Latitude	20.7947
Longitude	-156.4711
Location	Kealia NWR, Kihei, Maui County, Hawaii
Country	United States
Elevation	0 m
Background	Black-necked Stilt ( <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i> )

**Actions**

- Download audio file
- Download full-length sonogram
- Embed
- Discuss

**Remarks from the Recordist**

bird-seen:yes  
playback-used:yes

Figure 3: xeno-canto is a crowd sourced database of bird sounds.

## Outline

- Building data pipelines with Luigi
- BirdNET embeddings
- Sound Separation with MixIT
- Automated dataset annotation
- Sequence models with embeddings

# Reading the literature

## Domain specific deep learning model - BirdNET

Kahl, S., Wood, C. M., Eibl, M., & Klinck, H. (2021). BirdNET: A deep learning solution for avian diversity monitoring. *Ecological Informatics*, 61, 101236.

## Sound separation - MixIT

Denton, T., Wisdom, S., & Hershey, J. R. (2022, May). Improving bird classification with unsupervised sound separation. In *ICASSP 2022-2022 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)* (pp. 636-640). IEEE.



# Building data pipelines with Luigi

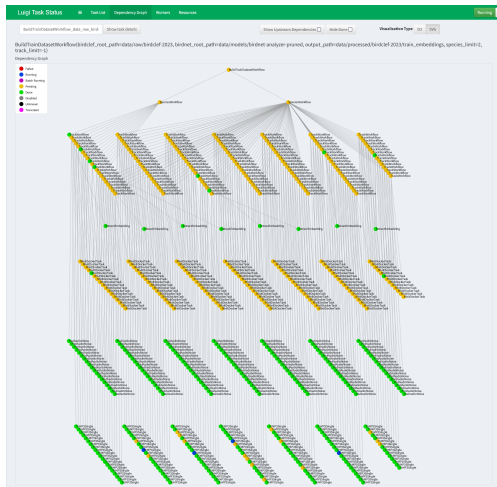


Figure 4: Luigi is a Python library for building data pipelines.

# BirdNET embeddings

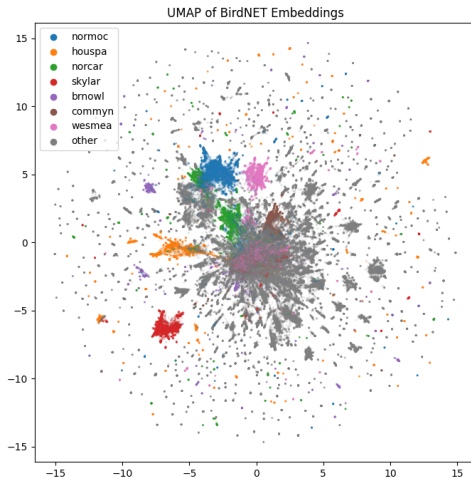


Figure 5: We can use the BirdNET embedding space for search and nearest neighbor queries.

# BirdNET predictions for annotation

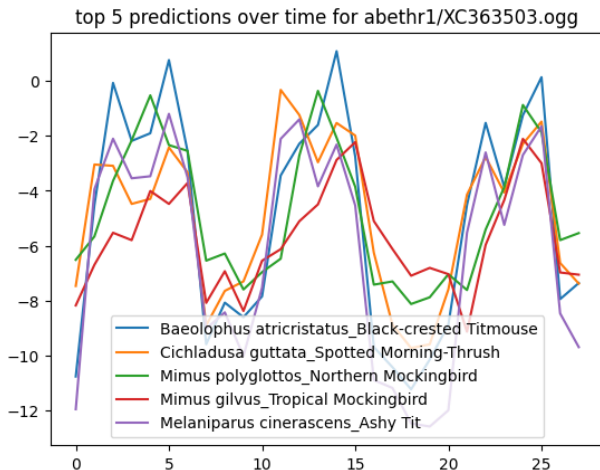


Figure 6: The BirdNET predictions can help with data annotation.

# Sound Separation with MixIT

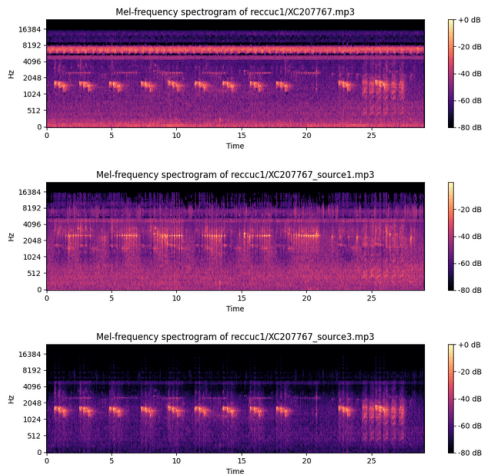


Figure 7: MixIT is a sound separation algorithm.

# Automated dataset annotation

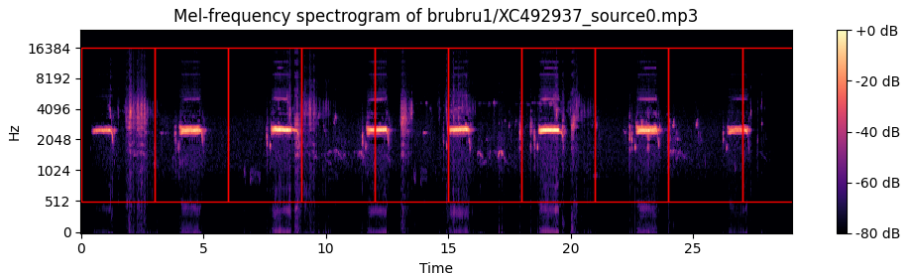


Figure 8: Chunked spectrogram of a bird call.

# Sequence models with embeddings

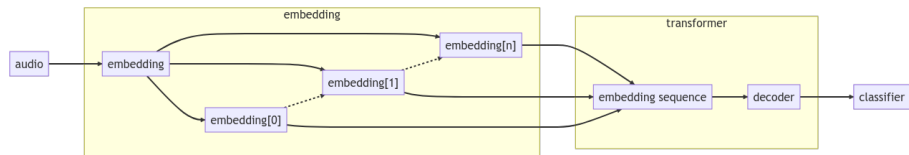


Figure 9: We experiment with embeddings in a sequence model (e.g. Transformers) to imbue temporal context.



Figure 10: Bird conservation is a worthy cause and a great opportunity to learn.

# Advice for myself two years ago

## Building a team is worthwhile

- A strong team can help you achieve more than you could on your own. It's also an opportunity to connect with other students.

## Be prepared to learn how to lead a team

- Effective communication and clear timelines are key to keeping the team on track
- Remember that everyone on the team is capable and valuable, and make an effort to recognize and appreciate their contributions

## Reach out to OMSCS and OMSA early

- Working professionals have *a lot* to bring to the table.



# Be on the lookout for opportunities



Figure 11: Be on the lookout!

There's an abundance of opportunities for OMSCS students to collaborate with other students.

# Thank you to everyone involved

## DS@GT Leadership

- Pulak Agarwal
- Krishi Manek

## BirdCLEF 2022

- Jiangyue Yu
- Bryan Cheungvivatpant
- Dakota Dudley
- Aniketh Swain

## BirdCLEF F22 EDA

- Jinsong Zhen
- Kien Tran
- Siying Liu
- Muskaan Gupta
- Xinjin Li

## BirdCLEF 2023

- Chris Hayduk
- Erin Middlemas
- Grant Williams
- Nathan Zhong
- Murilo Gustineli

- Working Notes, “Motif Mining and Unsupervised Representation Learning for BirdCLEF 2022”
- DS@GT, Kaggle Competition Team Proposal, BirdCLEF 2022
- DS@GT, Project Group Proposal, BirdCLEF EDA Fall 2022
- DS@GT, Kaggle Competition Team Proposal, BirdCLEF 2023
- DS@GT, Assessment, BirdCLEF EDA Fall 2022
- DS@GT, Assessment, BirdCLEF 2023
- BirdCLEF Motif Viewer, Barn Owl, XC138041
- BirdCLEF 2023 MixIT Exploration, Red-chested Cuckoo, 2FXC207767

# Thank you!

## Time for Questions and Answers



Figure 12: Q&A