

Joanna X. Wu

Avian Ecologist



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Los Angeles, CA

An ornithologist and ecologist, Joanna studies gaps caused by overlooking female birds, climate change, and conservation. Joanna is a member of the [Galbatross Project](#), a group of scientists, birders, writers, and conservationists spreading awareness about often overlooked female birds.

Education	University of California, Los Angeles	2021–Present
	PhD Candidate, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	
	University of Hawai‘i, Hilo (GPA 3.96)	2010–2012
	MS Tropical Conservation Biology & Environmental Science	
	University of California, Berkeley (GPA 3.95, <i>summa cum laude</i>)	2005–2009
	BA Integrative Biology, Minor: Chinese Language	
Work & Research	2021–Present	University of California, Los Angeles <i>PhD Candidate & NSF Graduate Research Fellow</i> Survival and habitat analysis of female birds
	2016–2021	National Audubon Society, San Francisco, California <i>Avian Ecologist & Project Manager</i> . Scientific publication; species distribution modeling; supervision and mentorship; co-lead in equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives
	2010, 2013–2016	Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, California <i>Staff Biologist</i> . Great Gray Owl conservation strategy; supervision of 10 technicians; research design; avian point counts and bumblebee surveys
	2010–2012	University of Hawai‘i, Hilo <i>Graduate Scholar</i> . Frugivore movement and seed dispersal on Hawai‘i
	2010	Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai‘i <i>Avian Point Count Intern</i> . Variable radius aural and visual point counts
	2008–2009	University of California, Berkeley. Museum of Vertebrate Zoology <i>Honors Thesis</i> . Change in morphological traits of bird from 1900–2000
	2007–2009	University of California, Berkeley. Museum of Vertebrate Zoology <i>Field Assistant and Curatorial Assistant</i> . Employ mist nets and mammal traps; prepare and curate museum specimens
Awards	2025	Diversity & Inclusion Travel Award; American Ornithological Society; \$1,664
	2024	Conference Travel Award, American Ornithological Society; \$420
	2023	Harry R. Painton Award Honorable Mention, American Ornithological Society
	2021–2026	Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation; \$138,000
	2021–2026	PI Supplemental Funding, UCLA; \$20,000
	2021–2026	Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA; \$22,500
	2022	Summer Mentored Research Fellowship, UCLA; \$8,500
	2022	Diversity & Inclusion Travel Award, American Ornithological Society; \$1,314
	2014	Certificate of Appreciation, US Forest Service International Programs
	2011	Student Research Award, Hawaii Audubon Society; \$500
	2011	Bergstrom Memorial Research Award, Association of Field Ornithologists; \$850
	2011	Mewaldt-King Student Research Award, Cooper Ornithological Society; \$1,000

2006–2009 Dean's Honors List, UC Berkeley (every semester)
 2006 Governor's Scholarship Award, California; \$1,000
Total funding \$216,528 received

Peer Reviewed Publications

**Editor's choice. ‡Equal contribution. ^Publication award*

18. **Wu, J.X.**, M.A. Harbison, S. Beilke, P. Saha, B.L. Bateman. 2025. [A focus on females can improve science and conservation](#). IBIS:10.1111/ibi.13386
17. Liu, I. A., E.R. Gulson-Castillo, **J.X. Wu**, A.C. Demery, N. Cortes-Rodriguez, K.M. Covino, S.B. Lerman, S.A. Gill, V. Ruiz Gutierrez. 2024. [Building bridges in the conversation about eponymous common names of North American birds](#). IBIS:10.1111/ibi.13320
16. Neate-Clegg, M.H.C., B.A. Tonelli, C. Youngflesh, **J.X. Wu**, G.A. Montgomery, Ç.H. Şekercioğlu, M.W. Tingley. 2023. [Traits shaping urban tolerance in birds differ around the world](#). Current Biology 33:1–12
- *15. L. Taylor, S.P. Saunders, **J.X. Wu**, B.L. Bateman, J. Grand, W.V. DeLuca, C.B. Wilsey. 2022. [Choice of prioritization method impacts recommendations for climate-informed bird conservation in the United States](#). Ecography 2022:e06401
14. **Wu, J.X.**‡, B.L. Bateman‡, P.J. Heglund, L. Taylor, A.J. Allstadt, D. Granfors, H. Westerkam, N.L. Michel, and C.B. Wilsey. 2022. [U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System likely to see regional and seasonal species turnover in bird assemblages under a 2°C warming scenario](#). Ornithological Applications:duac016
13. Gahbauer, M.A., S.R. Parker, **J.X. Wu**, C. Harpur, B.L. Bateman, D.M. Whitaker, D.P. Tate, L. Taylor, and D. Lepage. 2022. [Projected changes in bird assemblages due to climate change in a Canadian system of protected areas](#). PLOS ONE:e0262116
- ^12. Saunders, S.P., T.D. Meehan, N.L. Michel, B.L. Bateman, W. DeLuca, J.L. Deppe, J. Grand, G.S. LeBaron, L. Taylor, H. Westerkam, **J.X. Wu**, and C.B. Wilsey. 2022. [Unraveling a century of global impacts on winter bird distributions in the eastern United States](#). Global Change Biology 28: 2221–2235
11. Saunders, S.P.‡, **J.X. Wu**‡, E.A. Gow, E. Adams, B.L. Bateman, T. Bayard, S. Beilke, A.A. Dayer, A.M.V. Fournier, K. Fox, P. Heglund, S.B. Lerman, N.L. Michel, E.H. Paxton, Ç.H. Şekercioğlu, M.A. Smith, W. Thogmartin, M.S. Woodrey, and C. van Riper III. 2021. [Bridging the research-implementation gap in avian conservation with translational ecology](#). Ornithological Applications:duab018
10. Bateman, B.L., L. Taylor, C. Wilsey, **J. Wu**, G.S. LeBaron, and G. Langham. 2020. Risk to [North American birds from climate change-related threats](#). Conservation Science and Practice 2:e243
9. Bateman, B.L., C. Wilsey, L. Taylor, **J. Wu**, G.S. LeBaron, and G. Langham. 2020. North American birds require mitigation and adaptation to reduce vulnerability to climate change. [Conservation Science and Practice](#) 2:e242
8. Grand, J., S.P. Saunders, N.L. Michel, L. Elliot, S. Beilke, A. Bracey, T.M. Gehring, E.E. Gnass Giese, R.W. Howe, B. Kasberg, N. Miller, G.J. Niemi, C.J. Norment, D.C. Tozer, **J. Wu**, and C. Wilsey. 2020. [Prioritizing coastal wetlands for marsh bird conservation in the U.S. Great Lakes](#). Biological Conservation 249:108708
7. Siegel, R.B., S.A. Eyes, M.W. Tingley, **J.X. Wu**, S.L. Stock, J.R. Medley, R.S. Kalinowski, A. Casas, M. Lima-Baumbach, and A.C. Rich. 2019. [Short-term resilience of Great Gray Owls to a megafire in California, USA](#). The Condor: Ornithological Applications:duy019
6. Grand, J., C. Wilsey, **J.X. Wu**, and N.M. Michel. 2019. [The future of North American grassland birds: Incorporating persistent and emergent threats into full annual cycle conservation priorities](#). Conservation Science and Practice 1:e20
5. **Wu, J.X.**, C.B. Wilsey, L. Taylor, G.W. Schuurman. 2018. [Projected avifaunal responses to](#)

[climate change across the U.S. National Park System](#). PLOS ONE 13:e0190557

4. Polasik, J. S., **J.X. Wu**, K.N. Roberts, and R.B. Siegel. 2016. [Great Gray Owls Nesting in Atypical, Low-Elevation Habitat in the Sierra Nevada, California](#). Journal of Raptor Research 50:194–206

3. **Wu, J.X.**, R.B. Siegel, H.L. Loffland, M.W. Tingley, S.L. Stock, K.N. Roberts, J.J. Keane, J.R. Medley, R. Bridgman, C. Stermer. 2015. [Diversity of Great Gray Owl Nest Sites and Nesting Habitats in California](#). Journal of Wildlife Management 79:937–947

2. Aslan, A., P. Hart, **J. Wu**, and C.E. Aslan. 2014. [Evaluating the qualitative effectiveness of a novel pollinator: a case study of two endemic Hawaiian plants](#). Biotropica 46:732–739

1. **Wu, J.X.**, D.M. Delparte, and P.J. Hart. 2014. [Movement patterns of a native and non-native frugivore in Hawaii and implications for seed dispersal](#). Biotropica 46:175–182

Teaching

2022 University of California, Los Angeles. *Teaching Associate, Guest Lecturer*, Ornithology
 2011– University of Hawai'i, Hilo. *Graduate Assistant Instructor, Guest Lecturer*, Geographic
 2012 Information Systems, Biostatistics
 2007 University of California, Berkeley. *Undergraduate Instructor*, Biology 1A Laboratory

Service & Leadership

Leadership Roles

2025–Present Co-Leader, Diversity & Inclusion Flocks, American Ornithological Society
 2022–Present Co-Leader, EEB Dept. Peer Mentorship Program, UCLA
 2022–Present Scientific Advisor, BirdNote
 2020–Present Co-Founder, The Galbatross Project
 2024 Science Mentor, MFA Screenwriting Project
 2023–2024 Secretary/Co-President, EEB Dept. Graduate Student Association, UCLA
 2019–2024 Member, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, American Ornithological Society
 2021 Elective Member, American Ornithological Society
 2017–2021 Committee, People of Color Affinity Group, National Audubon Society

Peer Reviewer Current Biology, Current Zoology, Ornithological Applications, Ornithology, Pacific Science, PLOS ONE, PNAS

Guest Editor Special Feature on female birds, Ornithology and Ornithological Applications

Mentorship

2022–Present Mentored 11 undergraduate student researchers over six quarters
 2018–2019 Mentored two interns on climate data analysis

Conference Organization

2024 Organizer of American Ornithological Society conference symposium, “Focus on females: insights from studies on female song, behavior, and physiology”
 2019 Co-organizer of American Ornithological Society conference symposium, “Translational ecology—Producing actionable science”
 2018 Organizer of American Ornithological Society conference symposium, “Bridging the gap between science and conservation”
 2011 Co-organizer of inaugural annual Tropical Conservation Biology & Environmental Science research symposium

Outreach

2021–Present Judge, Female Bird Prize, Audubon Photography Awards

	2021–Present	Thirteen invited talks on female birds to birding organizations
	2020–2024	Guest, Biology Classes, Olympic Peninsula High School, Port Angeles, WA; Wilmington Middle School, Los Angeles, CA; Maywood Center for Enriched Studies Magnet High School, Los Angeles, CA; California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA
	2020	Moderator, Audubon Youth Environmental Summit, virtual
Professional Presentations	2024.	American Ornithological Society, Estes Park, Colorado. Focus on females: Novel insights from studies on female song, behavior, and physiology
	2024.	Ecological Society of America, Long Beach, California. Female passerines and woodpeckers in the US and Canada have lower apparent survival than males
	2023.	Western Bird Banding Association, Santa Clarita, California. Sex-specific survival in birds using mark-recapture data
	2022.	American Ornithological Society and Birds Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico. <i>Poster presentation</i> . What's sex got to do with conservation? Overlooked sex-specific survival patterns in North American birds
	2020.	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment: Exploring California Climate Change Connections Workshop. Survival by Degrees: Past and future impacts of climate change on birds
	2019.	Arkansas Environmental Policy Summit, Little Rock, Arkansas. <i>Keynote presentation</i> . Survival by Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink
	2019.	American Ornithological Society, Anchorage, Alaska. Model-based Vulnerability Assessment of Boreal Birds in a Changing Climate
	2018.	International Ornithological Congress, Vancouver, British Columbia. <i>Poster presentation</i> . Projected avifaunal responses to climate change across the U.S. National Park System
	2017.	Natural Areas Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado. Impacts of Climate Change on Birds in U.S. national parks
	2016.	The Wildlife Society, Pomona, California. Great Gray Owls Nesting in Atypical, Low-Elevation Habitat in the Sierra Nevada
	2015.	The Wildlife Society, Santa Rosa, California. <i>Poster presentation</i> . Effects of the Rim Fire on Great Gray Owl habitat in Yosemite National Park
	2012.	North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia. Native and non-native frugivore movement patterns and implications for seed dispersal in Hawai'i
	2012.	Hawai'i Conservation Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i. Native and non-native frugivore movement patterns and implications for seed dispersal
	2011.	The Wildlife Society, Waikaloa, Hawai'i. <i>Poster presentation</i> . Frugivore movements and seed dispersal in forest islands
Press	2025.	Bird science has a bro-bias. National Geographic
	2025.	DEIA For Birds Could Help Avian Conservation. Forbes
	2025.	In Research, Ignoring Female Birds Harms Scientific Understanding. National Audubon Society
	2024.	UH Hilo alumna Joanna Wu studies female birds and their importance to conservation work. UH Hilo Stories
	2024.	The Forgotten Flock: Female Birds. BirdNote Bring Birds Back Podcast

2024. Female Birds Finally Get Their Due. [National Wildlife Magazine](#)
2023. Why ‘the most misunderstood birds in North America’ are female. [New York Times](#)
2023. See Stunning Images of Female Birds, Often Overlooked by Wildlife Photographers. [Smithsonian Magazine](#)
2022. Slowing Down and Observing Female Birds. [BirdNote Daily Podcast](#)
2022. The unexpected gender gaps in the science of birds. [BirdLife International News](#)
- 2022, 2021. This Month in Birding. [American Birding Association Podcast](#)
2021. There’s an Avian Gender Gap and #FemaleBirdDay Is Out to Change That. [WTTW News](#)
2021. A Bird’s Eye View of Audubon’s Annual Christmas Bird Count. [Science Friday](#)
2020. Celebrating Fall Migration as Birding Enjoys a Moment in 2020. [Bay Nature](#)
2019. 54% of Washington birds threatened by warming climate. [KUOW Public Radio](#)
2018. U.S. parks may become more vital to birds as climate changes. [The Wildlife Society](#)
2018. More Birds Expected for Majority of National Parks—Here's Why. [National Geographic](#)
2018. Being a Bird Was Once a Simple Affair. Flying. Eating. Mating. But Now Their Habitats Are Under Siege. [Mother Jones](#)
2018. National Parks Are About to Get a Bunch of Birds They Didn't Ask For. [Earther](#)
2018. Birds And Climate Change: Study Predicts Upheaval In National Park Bird Species. [National Parks Traveler](#)

Other Writing

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| <i>Media</i> | 2020. How Wildfires Boosted by Climate Change Threaten Birds. National Audubon Society |
| | 2020. Protecting the Birds of Hawai‘i Amid Environmental Carelessness. National Audubon Society |
| <i>Reports</i> | 2016. Wu, J.X. , H.L. Loffland, R.B. Siegel, and C. Stermer. A Conservation Strategy for Great Gray Owls in California. The Institute for Bird Populations, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Partners in Flight |
| <i>Theses</i> | 2012. Wu, J.X. Movement patterns of the ‘Ōma‘o and Japanese White-eye and implications for seed dispersal in Hawai‘i. M.S. Thesis, University of Hawaii, Hilo |