

# Oscar Johnson

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## EDUCATION

- 2014-present Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA  
Ph.D. candidate, Museum of Natural Science & Department of Biological Sciences.  
Advisor: Robb T. Brumfield  
GPA: 4.0/4.0
- 2008-2011 University of California, Santa Cruz Santa Cruz, CA  
B.S. - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
GPA: 3.86/4.0, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Senior Thesis: Mixed species flocking behavior at Monteverde, Costa Rica. Advisor: Bruce E. Lyon
- 2005-2008 Santa Barbara City College Santa Barbara, CA  
GPA: 3.93/4.0, Dean's list

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Moncrieff, A. E., **Johnson, O.**, Lane, D. F., Beck, J., Angulo-Pratolongo, F., and Fagan, J. In review. A distinctive new species of antbird (Passeriformes; Thamnophilidae) from the Cordillera Azul, San Martín, Peru.
- Johnson, O.** 2017. Notes on the nesting behavior of the Gray-mantled Wren (*Odontorchilus branickii*). *Ornitologia Neotropical* 28:175-179.
- Cooper, J. C., **Johnson, O.**, Davis, T. J., Terrill, R. S., Wolfe, J. D., Brzeski, K. E., Motove Etingüe, A., and Powell, L. L. 2017. Notes on the distribution of the avifauna of Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, including one new country record. *Malimbus* 39:1-15.
- Johnson, O.** 2016. Pearly-breasted Conebill (*Conirostrum margaritae*), Neotropical Birds Online (T. S. Schulenberg, Editor). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- Shizuka, D., Chaine, A. S., Anderson, J., **Johnson, O.**, Laursen, I. M., and Lyon, B. E. 2014. Across-year social stability shapes network structure in wintering migrant sparrows. *Ecology Letters* 17:998-1007.
- Johnson, O.** and Billings, M. J. 2014. The Mangrove Yellow Warbler reaches California. *Western Birds*. 45:160-162.
- Johnson, O.**, Pyle, P., and Tietz, J. 2013. The subspecies of the Song Sparrow on Southeast Farallon Island and in central California. *Western Birds* 44:162-170.
- Johnson, O.**, Sullivan, B. S., and McCaskie, G. 2012. The 36th report of the California Bird Records Committee: 2010 records. *Western Birds* 43:164-188.
- Johnson, O.** 2010. Primer registro de rascón café (*Amaurolimnas concolor*) en Monteverde, Puntarenas, Costa Rica. *Zeledonia* 14:57-58.
- Johnson, O.** 2010. Review: *Birds of the US-Mexico Borderlands: Distribution, Ecology, and Conservation*, by J. Ruth, T. Brush, and D. Krueper, associate editors. *Western Birds* 41:60-61.

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## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

- Johnson, O.** 2016. (Talk). Expedition Travelogue Part I: Ornithology in Africa. Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science Seminar.
- Johnson, O.** and Robb T. Brumfield. 2016. (Talk). Phylogeographic patterns of Amazonian river-island birds. North American Ornithological Conference.

- Freitas, L., Delgado-Jaramillo, M., Cabanne, G., **Johnson, O.**, and Luciano Naka. 2016. (Talk). História evolutiva e conservatismo de nicho de *Myrmorchilus strigilatus*: um táxon endêmico de duas florestas secas neotropicais. XXIII Congresso Brasileiro de Ornitologia.
- Johnson, O.** 2015. (Talk). Expedition Travelogue Part II: Peru. Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science Seminar.
- Johnson, O.** 2015. (Talk). Within- and across-year social cohesion in wintering sparrows revealed by social networks. Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science seminar.
- Johnson, O.** 2006. (Poster). Associations between wind speed and wing-strain in mist-net captured birds. Poster presentation. Ventana Wildlife Society Semi-annual Staff Conference.
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## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Wetmore Award – American Ornithological Society (\$2,400)	2017
Chapman Grant – American Museum of Natural History (\$1,900)	2017
Student travel award – American Ornithologists’ Union (\$265)	2016
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$34,000)	2016
Maxwell Scholar (\$1000)	2007

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Jan 2015 – May 2015 <i>Teaching assistant</i>	Principles of Genetics (LSU Sophomore course)
Aug 2014 – Dec 2014 <i>Teaching assistant</i>	Biological Laboratories for Science Majors (LSU Freshman course)

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## CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

Jul 2015 – Aug 2016 <i>Curatorial Assistant</i>	Genetic Resources Collection, LSU Museum of Natural Science
Jan 2011 – Mar 2011 & Sep 2009 – Mar 2010 <i>Curatorial Assistant</i>	Botany Collection, Univ. of Calif. Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Aug 2007 – Jun 2008 <i>Curatorial Assistant</i>	Mammology Collection, Santa Barbara City College Teaching Museum
Jan 2005 – Sep 2008 <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Ornithology Collection, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

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## SERVICE AND OUTREACH

LSU Museum of Natural Science Birdathon fundraiser <i>Coordinator</i>	Apr 2017
LSUMNS Special Saturdays – Birds & Beaks <i>Talks and activities about birds for 5-12 year old kids</i>	Dec 2016
Baton Rouge Westdale Middle School Family STEM night <i>Outreach to middle school kids for Museum of Natural Science</i>	Nov 2016
LSU Museum of Natural Science Birdathon fundraiser	Apr 2016

<i>Coordinator</i>	
LSUMNS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Day	Nov 2015
Museum tours and outreach for local 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students	
LATM LSTA Conference	Nov 2015
Outreach to local school teachers	
LSU Museum of Natural Science Birdathon fundraiser	Apr 2015
<i>Team member</i>	

Reviews provided: *Western Birds*

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## MUSEUM EXPEDITIONS

- Peru: Sep-Oct 2016  
LSUMZ Expedition to the Cordillera Azul (leader)
- Peru: Jun-Jul 2016  
LSUMZ Expedition to the Rio Huallaga
- Equatorial Guinea: Jan-Feb 2016 (Co-led with Ryan S. Terrill)  
LSUMZ Expedition to the Bioko Island and Oyala
- Peru: Sep-Oct 2015 (Co-led with Glenn F. Seeholzer)  
LSUMZ Expedition to the Cerros del Sira, the Gran Pajonal, and upper Rio Ucayali

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Apr 2014 – Aug 2014                      Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center                      Madison, IN  
*Crew Leader*
- Thorough breeding demography of a Wood Thrush population
  - Responsible for daily logistics of a six person field crew
  - Coordinating with wildlife refuge personel and an off-site supervisor
  - Daily target netting, nest searching, and nest monitoring tasks
- Jan 2014 – Mar 2014                      Stanford University                      San Vito, Costa Rica  
*Bird Bander*
- Daily (6 days/week) bird banding in a Neotropical rainforest setting
  - Banded 1,243 birds of 134 species, including 345 individual hummingbirds
- Aug 2013 – Dec 2013                      WEST, Inc.                      Blythe, CA  
*Field Biologist*
- Bird Use Counts to monitor migrating raptors and waterbirds.
  - Small Bird Counts (point counts) to monitor landbirds.
  - Long hours in an extremely hot desert environment.
- Mar – Jun 2013                      Great Basin Bird Observatory                      Lake Havasu City, AZ  
*Field Technician*
- Territory mapping of riparian breeding birds.
  - Identified all birds by sight and sound and utilized behavioral queues to determine breeding status.
  - Utilized GPS, compass, and aerial photos for navigation of survey plots.

Aug 2011 – Oct 2012                      Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project  
*Endangered Seabird Field Assistant*

- Full-time technician conducting surveys for endangered seabirds.
- 3-4 day field expeditions to remote remote montane locations, via helicopter and off-trail hikes.
- Auditory nocturnal point counts and visual surveys using binoculars, remote camera traps, night vision, and thermal imagery technology to document seabird distribution and relative abundance
- Operation of off-road vehicles, off-trail navigation in remote areas, long work hours during both day and night, identification of Hawaiian seabirds by sight and sound, basic knowledge of Hawaiian flora, and occasional coordination of volunteers.
- Proficiency in Global Information System (GIS), Access, and Excel database software.

Mar – Aug 2011                              Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project                      Hanapepe, HI  
*Avian Research Technician*

- Seasonal technician conducting surveys for endangered seabirds.
- Responsibilities same as above.

Aug – Oct 2010, Oct – Dec 2011              Point Reyes Bird Observatory                      Southeast Farallon Island, CA  
*Migratory Landbird Intern*

- Daily surveys for land birds, shorebirds, Burrowing Owls, gulls, and migratory seabirds
- Stationary surveys to locate Great White Shark attacks and assess cetacean numbers.
- Occasional piniped surveys on West End Island.
- Responsible for all bird banding operations on the island every three to four days
- General duties: maintenance of house and field station, daily sea surface temperature and weather sampling, and boat landings with the use of a crane and safeboat.
- A remote field station with no access to the mainland during the duration of the stay.

Sep 2009 – Mar 2011                              UC Santa Cruz – Lyon Lab                              Santa Cruz, CA  
*Independent project*

- Social network theory to assess flocking behavior in wintering Golden-crowned Sparrows.
- Assisted with color banding of a small population of Golden-crowned Sparrows.
- Weekly resighting of color-banded individuals, noting social interactions and behavioral observations.
- Assisted with construction of digitized social network.

Sep 2009 – Mar 2010                              UC Santa Cruz – Croll Lab                              Santa Cruz, CA  
*Volunteer*

- Surveyed for Common Ravens at the Dimeo Landfill, Santa Cruz, once every two weeks.
- Noted behavioral observations and total numbers of ravens and gulls.
- Conducted roadside surveys for ravens and crows from Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay every 3 weeks.

Apr 2009 – Jan 2010                              UC Santa Cruz – Gilbert Lab                              Santa Cruz, CA  
*Volunteer*

- Conducted avian point count surveys one to two times per week.
- Occasional small mammal trapping.

Jun 2008    Smithsonian Institution                              Santa Cruz Island, CA  
*Field Assistant*

- Assisted a graduate student for two weeks researching the Island Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma insularis*).
- Daily counts of a color-banded population.

- Caught and banded adults using bal-chatri traps and mist nets, and banded nestlings.
- Set up remote cameras for nestling videos.
- Occasional passerine mist netting and nest vegetation sampling.

May – Jul 2007 UC Santa Barbara Fairbanks, AK  
*Field assistant*

- Experimental field research on Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) breeding biology.
- Surveys of color-banded birds, nest searching, territory mapping, target banding, and song recording.

Aug 2006 – Aug 2010 Shearwater Journeys Central California, CA  
*Tour leader*

- Pelagic trip tour leader for seabirds and cetaceans on Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, and Noyo Canyon.
- Variable work schedule, consisting of 5-15 day trips per field season, mostly in the fall.
- Duties include accommodating passengers, finding and identifying seabirds and cetaceans, operating a PA system, and chumming for seabirds.
- Long hours in variable sea conditions, occasionally in rough weather.
- Detailed knowledge of the identification of all seabird and cetacean species occurring in California.

May – Jul 2006 Ventana Wilderness Society, Big Sur Ornithology Lab Big Sur, CA  
*Conservation Ecology Intern, Bird Bander*

- Daily bird banding of resident and migratory passerines.
- Daily area search surveys.
- Analyzed banding data to look at associations between mist-net capture injuries and wind speeds, and presented findings in a poster presentation at the end of the season staff conference.

Dec 2005 – Dec 2014 Christmas Bird Count Niland, CA  
*Count Coordinator and Compiler*

- Count conducted once annually in mid December at the south end of the Salton Sea
- Organized 15 – 40 volunteers to survey 15-mile diameter circle to count all individuals of all species.
- Coordination of logistics with National Wildlife Refuge staff.
- Compilation of survey data and documentation of rare species.
- Final report to the National Audubon Society.

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## CERTIFICATIONS

Adult and child CPR and AED – American Red Cross. Jul 2012, May 2015

Basic Helicopter and External Load Safety – IAT Course. Apr 2012

Wilderness First Aid – Wilderness Medical Training Center. Jun 2011

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## AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Committee Member, California Bird Records Committee. Jan 2010 – Jan 2013

Board of Directors, Central Valley Bird Club. Nov 2009 – Nov 2014

Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2015 – present

Member, Society of Systematic Biologists, 2016 – present

Member, Neotropical Bird Club, 2015 – present

Member, American Ornithologists Society, 2014 – present

Member, Western Field Ornithologists, 2005 – present

Member, Central Valley Bird Club. Nov 2004 – Nov 2014

Member, American Birding Association. Sep 2004 – Sep 2008

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## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- Bird specimen collection and preparation
- Proficient in banding and processing songbirds, seabirds, and owls.
- Navigational skills: Can use 4WD, map, compass, and GPS.
- Familiar with mist nets, bal-chatri traps, Sherman traps, nest cameras, iButtons, telemetry techniques.
- Ability to identify all North American, Hawaiian, Mexican, Central American, Peruvian, and Caribbean bird species by sight, and most by sound.
- Basic knowledge of Californian and Hawaiian flora, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies.
- Database management: familiar with Excel, Access, Filemaker, and ArcGIS.
- Capable of preparing bird and small mammal skins.