Ashley Olah

Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

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# Education

## PhD in Wildlife Ecology | entered September 2019; Anticipated graduation August 2025 | University of Wisconsin – Madison

* *Predicting bird species distributions and richness in Argentine forests with remotely sensed indices, and implications for conservation*

## M.S. in Wildlife Ecology | August 2019 | University of Wisconsin – Madison

* *Kirtland’s Warbler habitat selection, nest and fledgling survival and activity patterns in red pine dominated breeding habitat*

**B.A. in Wildlife Ecology; Life science Communications | may 2014 | University of Wisconsin – Madison**

* *environmental studies certificate*

**associates degree (honors) | may 2011 | University of Wisconsin – Baraboo/Sauk County**

* *emphasis in biology*

**Teaching**

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, BIRDS OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN and ORNITHOLOGY (IBIO/FWE 520, IBIO/FWE 521), SPRING 2021, 2022, 2023 (~20 hrs/week)**

* Have primary responsibility for a section of 18-23 students. Teach students to identify >200 species of Wisconsin birds by call and/or sight through short lectures and weekly field trips
* Developed, administered and graded quizzes and exams
* coordinated and co-led day-long weekend field trips for groups of 12-20 students.

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, FOREST RESOURCES PRACTICUM (FWE 658), MAY 2021 (~20 hrs/week)**

* Taught students how to collect and analyze ecological data, including identifying Wisconsin birds by sound & sight, conducting avian point counts, identifying Wisconsin reptile and amphibian species, and , and analyzing relationships among animals and habitat in Microsoft Excel. Set up data entry system for students.

**Peer-reviewed Journal Articles**

* **Olah, A.,** C. A. Ribic, K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, and A. M. Pidgeon. 2023. Low Kirtland’s Warbler fledgling survival in Wisconsin plantations relative to Michigan plantations. Ornithological Applications. duad007, https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithapp/duad007
* Silveira, E. M. O., V. C. Radeloff, S. Martinuzzi, G. J. M. Pastur, J. Bono, N. Politi, L. Lizarraga, L. O. Rivera, L. Ciuffoli, Y. M. Rosas, **A. M. Olah**, G. I. Gavier-Pizarro, A. M. Pidgeon. 2022. Nationwide native forest structure maps for Argentina based on forest inventory data, SAR Sentinel-1 and vegetation metrics from Sentinel-2 imagery. Remote Sensing of Environment. 285 : 113391. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2022.113391
* Silveira, E. M. O, V. C. Radeloff, G. M. Pastur, S. Martinuzzi, N. Politi, L. Lizarraga, L. O. Rivera, G. I. Gavier-Pizarro, H. Yin, Y. M. Rosas, N. C. Calamari, M. F. Navarro, Y. Sica, **A. M. Olah**, J. Bono, A. M. Pidgeon. 2022. Forest phenoclusters for Argentina based on vegetation phenology and climate. Ecological Applications. 32 (3), e2526. https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2526
* **Olah, A. M.**, C. A. Ribic, K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, and A. M. Pidgeon. 2022. Kirtland’s Warbler breeding productivity and habitat use in red pine-dominated habitat in Wisconsin, USA. Avian Conservation and Ecology. 17(1):3. https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-02009-170103
* Martinuzzi, S, V. C. Radeloff, G. M. Pastur, Y. M. Rosas, L. Lizarraga, N. Politi, L. Rivera, A. H. Herrera, E. M. O. Silveira, **A. Olah**, A. M. Pidgeon. 2021. Informing forest conservation planning with detailed human footprint data for Argentina. Global Ecology and Conservation 31: e01787. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2021.e01787
* Farwell, L. S., D. Gudex-Cross, I. E. Anise, M. J. Bosch, **A. M. Olah,** V. C. Radeloff, E. Razenkova, N. Rogova, E. M. O. Silveira, M. M. Smith, A. M. Pidgeon. 2021. Satellite image texture captures vegetation heterogeneity and explains patterns of bird richness. Remote Sensing of Environment 253: 112175.

# Fieldwork Experience

**Master’s Research | University of Wisconsin – Madison | May-August 2015 – 2018**

* Nest monitoring (cameras and field observations), banding, radio-tagging and radio-tracking of fledgling Kirtland’s warblers, banding of adult Kirtland’s warblers, vegetation sampling (point-center quarter, Robel pole, Daubenmire frame)

**field Assistant (Bahamas)****| smithsonian institution | MARCH – april 2015**

* Conducted playback surveys for wintering Kirtland’s Warblers, measured vegetation

## nest monitor | wisconsin dept. of natural resources | may – july 2014, 2015

* Located singing male Kirtland’s Warblers, identified territory boundaries, monitored nesting activities, assisted with mist-netting and banding of adult Kirtland’s Warblers

## endangered resources assistant | wisconsin dept. of natural resources | 2012-2014

* Entered data, produced maps, participated in Red-shouldered Hawk surveys

## lab assistant | university of wisconsin - madison | 2012-2014

* Performed avian dissections, blood cell counts, lysis assays, prepped stable isotope samples, analyzed feather growth bars

## avian insectivore field technician | university of wisconsin - madison| may – august 2013

* Conducted avian point counts, collected insect traps, identified insects to order, conducted foraging observations, assisted with avian mist-netting

**general biology intern| USFWS – edwin b forsythe nwr | may – august 2012**

* Monitored beach nesting shorebirds, conducted salt marsh habitat surveys, avian point counts, nekton sampling

**Presentations (\* presenting author)**

* **A. Olah\*.** Performance of novel remotely sensed versus traditional habitat variables in predictive species distribution models for Argentinian forest birds. Oral Presentation. comuniCADIC Salón Sobral. CADIC Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego. November 24, 2022.
* A. Pidgeon\*, S. Martinuzzi, V. C. Radeloff, E. M. O. Silveira, **A. Olah**, L. Lizarraga, G. Martinez Pastur. Modeling endangered species’ forest habitats, and updating forest land use plans in Argentina in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Oral presentation. NASA Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting Team Meeting, College Park, MD. September 20–22, 2022.
* **A. Olah**\*, V. Radeloff, E. M. O. Silveira, S. Martinuzii, G. M. Pastur, N. Politi, L. Rivera, A. Pidgeon. Which environmental variables best predict distributions of Argentina’s forest birds? Poster presentation. NASA Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting Team Meeting. College Park, MD. September 20–22, 2022.
* **A. Olah\*,** V. Radeloff, E. M. O. Silveira, S. Martinuzii, G. M. Pastur, N. Politi, L. Rivera, A. Pidgeon. Temporal and spatial variability in temperature and forest phenology as predictors of forest bird species distributions in Argentina. Virtual oral presentation. International Ornithological Congress. Virtual. August 16, 2022.
* Martinuzzi, S.\*, **A. Olah**, N. Politi, L. Rivera, E. M. O. Silveira, L. Lizarraga, Y. M. Rosas, G. M. Pastur, V. C. Radeloff, A. M. Pidgeon. Conservation Prioritization of Native Forests in Argentina Using Species Distributions and Human Footprint Data. Virtual American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Virtual. December 13–17, 2021.
* Silveira, E. M. O.\*, V. C. Radeloff, S. Martinuzzi, G. M. Pastur, N. Politi, L. Lizarraga, L. Rivera, Y. M. Rosas, **A. Olah**, J. Bono, A. M. Pidgeon. Detailed mapping of forest structure across Argentina using Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 data. Virtual. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Virtual. December 13–17, 2021.
* **Olah, A. M.\***, C. A. Ribic, K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, and A. M. Pidgeon. Kirtland’s Warbler habitat use, reproductive success, and fledgling survival in red pine-dominated plantations in Wisconsin. Virtual oral presentation. The Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. Virtual. February 24–25, 2021.
* Silveira, E. M. O.\*, V. C. Radeloff, G. M. Pastur, S. Martinuzzi, Y. Michaela, H. Yin, L. Lizarraga, N. Politi, L. O. Rivera, **A. Olah**, A. M. Pidgeon. Land surface phenology and climate identify forests of different functional characteristics in Southern Patagonian, Argentina. Virtual posterpresentation. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. Virtual. December 7–11, 2020.
* Farwell, L.\*, D. Gudex-Cross, I. Anise, M. Bosch, **A. Olah**, V. Radeloff, E. Razenkova, N. Rogova, E. Silveira, M. Smith, A. Pidgeon. Image texture captures vegetation heterogeneity important for bird biodiversity. Virtual oral presentation. The Wildlife Society 2020 Annual Conference. Virtual. September 28–October 2, 2020.
* **Olah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Nest visitation rates and fledging patterns in Kirtland’s Warblers. Virtual poster presentation. North American Ornithological Conference. Virtual poster presentation. Virtual. August 10–15, 2020.
* Martinuzzi, S.\*, A Pidgeon, G. M. Pastur, Y. M. Rosas, L. Leónidas, N. Politi, L. Rivera, H. H. Alejandro, E. M. O. Silveira, **A. Olah**, V. Radeloff. Enhancing forest conservation planning in Argentina with spatially-explicit data on human footprint. Virtual poster presentation. North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Virtual. July 26–31, 2020.
* Silveira, E. M. O.\*, S. Martinuzzi, G. M. Pastur, N. Politi, L. Rivera, L. Leónidas, **A. Olah**, L. Farwell, A. Pidgeon, V. Radeloff. Vegetation greenness and thermal heterogeneity as proxies of climate change resilience in Argentina. Virtual poster presentation. North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Virtual. July 26–31, 2020.
* Pidgeon, A.\*, N. Politi, L. Rivera, S. Martinuzzi, L. Leónidas, E. M. O. Silveira, **A. Olah,** Y. M. Rosas, V. Radeloff, G. M. Pastur. Modeling endangered species’ forest habitats, and updating forest land use plans in Argentina in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Virtual oral presentation. North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Virtual. July 26–31, 2020.
* **Olah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Movement patterns, habitat use, and survival of dependent Kirtland’s warbler fledglings in Wisconsin. Oral Presentation. AFO-WOS Joint Meeting 2019. Cape May, NJ. October 29, 2019.
* **Olah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Kirtland’s warbler habitat use in red pine-dominated breeding habitat. Oral Presentation. WIW Unit Cooperators’ Meeting. Madison, WI. October 23, 2019.
* Olah, A., K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Kirtland’s warbler territory and nest site selection, and productivity in novel breeding habitat: red pine dominated plantations in Wisconsin. Electronic Poster Presentation. Kirtland’s Warbler Conservation Team Meeting 2019. Grayling, MI. April 2–3, 2019.
* **Hannah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Characterizing adult and juvenile use of red-pine dominated plantations in Wisconsin’s population of Kirtland’s warblers. Oral Presentation. American Ornithology Meeting 2018. Tucson, AZ. April 11, 2018.
* **Hannah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Characterizing adult and juvenile use of red-pine dominated plantations in Wisconsin’s population of Kirtland’s warblers. Oral Presentation. Wisconsin Ecology 21st Annual Spring Symposium. Madison, WI. April 4, 2018.
* **Hannah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Characterizing fledgling movement patterns in the Wisconsin population of the Kirtland’s warbler; preliminary results. Oral Presentation. Riveredge Nature Center’s Student Research Symposium, Saukville, WI. November 4, 2017.
* Pidgeon, A., R. Graves, C. Latimer, J. Gorzo, M. Henschell\*, P. Schilke, M. Hobi, M. Pfeiffer, A. Shipley, **A. Hannah**, B. Zuckerberg, V. Radeloff. Rising novelty and homogenization of bird communities in the U.S. Oral Presentation. North American Ornithological Conference, Washington, D.C. August 16–20, 2016.
* **Hannah, A.\*,** K. Grveles, S. Warner, D. Lopez, C. Ribic, A. Pidgeon. Characterizing breeding habitat selection and reproductive success of the Wisconsin population of the Kirtland’s warbler; preliminary results. Poster Presentation. North American Congress for Conservation Biology, Madison, WI. July 18, 2016.
* **Hannah, A.\*** Wisconsin’s Kirtland’s Warbler Project 2015. Kirtland’s Warbler Recovery Team Meeting, Gaylord, Michigan. July 29, 2015.
* **Hannah, A.\*** Wisconsin’s Kirtland’s Warbler Project 2014. Kirtland’s Warbler Recovery Team Meeting, Paradise, Michigan. July 30, 2014.

**Awards & Honors**

* UW-Madison Graduate School Student Research Grants Competition Conference Presentation Travel Award ($600) –|2019
* UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology Graduate Student Travel Award ($500) | 2018
* American Ornithological Society Travel Award ($756) | 2018
* Association of Field Ornithologists E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Award ($1500) | 2018
* American Ornithologists’ Union Research Grant ($2500) | 2016
* Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Research Grant ($500) | 2016
* National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship| 2015
* Netzer-Brouchoud Scholarship – UW-Madison | 2013
* Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship – UW-Madison | 2012
* Vicky Lee Hirsh Academic Merit Award – UW-Madison| 2011

**Media Coverage**

* Kozenczak, K. “Off The Beaten Path: Beyond the Bird”, Journal and Topics. April 13, 2022. https://www.journal-topics.com/articles/off-the-beaten-path-beyond-the-bird/
* Kozidis, S. “Here to stay: Endangered Kirtland’s Warblers call red pine dominated plantations in Wisconsin home” SILVIS Lab, December 13, 2018.
* Hamner, S. “Bald Eagles: Redemption and Recovery”. Planet Forward 2018 Storyfest Entry, March 9, 2018.
* Muerhoff, M. “Research on the rebound: Kirtland’s Warblers expanding in central Wisconsin” UWMadScience, April 27, 2018.
* Meyer, B. “DNR works to preserve small, endangered songbird population in Adams County” WJFW NBC 11 June 2014.

**Outreach & Volunteer Service**

* Volunteer bird-banding assistant at Reserva las Tangaras in Mindo, Ecuador, December 2022
  + Participated in a two-week banding effort at the reserve
    - Partly responsible for setting up and monitoring 15 mist-nets daily
    - Extracted and banded birds captured in mist-nets
    - Used Hall-traps to catch hummingbirds
      * Banded hummingbirds with and without the use of holding bags
  + Conducted 3 bird surveys
  + Participated in the Mindo Christmas Bird Count
* Volunteer guide at the birding station for 2022 UW Science Expeditions - Exploration Stations at the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve, April 10, 2022
  + Created a ‘Birding Basics’ 1-page document for the event
* Planned and co-hosted Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2022 Annual Winter Meeting Virtual Trivia Night, March 9, 2022.
  + Assisted with planning and coordinating a virtual webinar with panel members discussing the bird-window collision problem and solutions, titled “Navigating the Landscape: Bird Collisions & Solutions”. December 1, 2021.
  + Responsible for creating and running the Zoom meeting and recording, co-creating pre- and post-event surveys, sending recording to participants after the event
* Ornithology, bird migration, and bird identification guest lecture/nature walk at Madison Community Montessori School. October 8, 2021.
* Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department Graduate Student Representative. September 2020 – September 2022.
  + Coordinated department social hour after weekly department seminars
  + Planned and coordinated department coffee hours
  + Coordinated a semester-long (Fall 2020) social-distanced/COVID-19 safe scavenger hunt
  + Assisted with setting up a department Gallery Night to show-case new permanent artwork displays from current and former Forest and Wildlife Ecology students, emeritus faculty, and community members
  + Attended department meetings, provided feedback on agenda items relevant to graduate students, and disseminated relevant information to graduate students
* Kirtland’s Warbler census volunteer – Adams County, Wisconsin. June 2020, 2021, 2022.
* Created a DIY Beyond Backyard Birding guide for UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve/Madison Audubon Society. Spring 2020, 2021.
* Co-leader for Madison Audubon Society’s Beyond Backyard Birding field trips. 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.
* Bird Collision Corps volunteer to locate birds that collided with windows on UW-Madison campus buildings. Spring 2019.
* Christmas Bird Count volunteer counter – Madison, WI. December 2018-2020.
* Co-leader on Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin Kirtland’s Warbler Field Trip. Mid-May 2014 – 2019, 2022.

# Banding assistant/outreach volunteer, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Honey Creek Bandathon. Early May 2016 – 2019, 2021, 2022.

# Outreach presentation “Kirtland’s Warblers in Wisconsin” for the UW-Madison Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. March 6, 2017.

# Professional Memberships

* American Ornithological Society
* Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

# Skills & Abilities

* UW-Madison animal care and use certified
* Midwestern mammal, herpetile, and Eastern US bird identification (sight/sound)
* South American (Argentina, Ecuador) bird identification (sight/sound)
* Field vegetation sampling
* Bird banding sub-permitee
  + mist-netting (passive & active)
  + bird extraction from nets
  + banding (including color banding; adults & nestlings)
  + radio-transmitter attachment (glue-on, leg-loop harness)
* Avian point counts
* Avian nest searching/monitoring
* Avian study skin preparation
* Radio-telemetry
* R coding
* Statistical analyses (frequentist)
* GIS/remote sensing software (ArcGIS, R spatial packages, ENVI)