

JOHN E. MCCORMACK

Moore Laboratory of Zoology & Biology Department
Occidental College, 1600 Campus Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90041
Phone: 323-259-1352
Email: mccormack@oxy.edu

Academic Positions

Current:

- **Director & Curator of Birds & Mammals**, Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College (2011–Present)
- **Full Professor**, Biology Department, Occidental College (2023–Present)

Previous:

- **Associate Professor**, Biology Department, Occidental College (2017–2023)
- **Assistant Professor**, Biology Department, Occidental College (2011–2017)
- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Louisiana State University (2009–2011)
- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, University of Michigan (2007–2009)

Education

- **UCLA**, PhD, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 2007
- **University of Arizona**, B.S. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 1998
 - *Summa cum laude* with honors

Memberships & Honors

- **AAAS Fellow**, inducted 2023 class
- **Fellow**, American Ornithological Society, elected 2019
- **Executive Board**, National Science Collections Alliance, 2018-present
- **Alumni Inductee**, Phi Beta Kappa, 2025

Peer-reviewed Publications

highlight = 100+ citations

* undergrad coauthor

92 Edwards SV & 14 co-authors. 2025. Multispecies pangenomes reveal pervasive influence of population size on diversity and dynamics of structural variants. **Science**. In press.

- 91 Zhao M & 27 co-authors. 2025. Efficient inference of macrophylogenies: insights from the avian tree of life. **Systematic Biology**. In press.
- 90 Ramirez BR, DC Blanco, JE McCormack. 2025. Relocated, range-limited, but resilient: niche shift and constraints on spread in introduced Nanday Parakeets (*Aratinga nenday*). **Urban Ecosystems** 28: 216.
- 89 Judy CD, GR Graves, JE McCormack, K Faust Stryjewski, RT Brumfield. 2025. Speciation with gene flow in an island endemic hummingbird. **PNAS Nexus** 4: pgaf095.
- 88 Campbell RML, SC Lyon, RS Terrill, JM Wong, M Mutchler, JE McCormack & CJ Clark. 2024. Exceptional plumage of female Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) in Los Angeles. **Western Birds** 55: 226-230.
- 87 Turbek SP, Polich A, C Bossu, C Rayne, G Rodríguez Otero, S Gómez Villaverde, F Rodríguez-Vasquez, BE Hernández-Baños, JE McCormack & K Ruegg. 2024. Genetic analysis of museum samples reveals historical wintering distribution of a neotropical migrant. **Journal of Avian Biology** e03369.
- 86 Zapata F, J Cerca, D McCarney, CL Henriquez, BB Tiamiyu, JE McCormack, KR Reckling*, JA Chaves & G Rivas-Torres. 2024. Darwin's overlooked radiation: genomic evidence points to the early stages of a radiation in the Galápagos prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*, Cactaceae). **Evolutionary Journal of the Linnean Society** 3: kzae021
- 85 Blackburn DC, et al. 2024. Increasing the impact of vertebrate scientific collections through 3D-imaging: the openVertebrate (oVert) Thematic Collections Network. **Bioscience** 74: 169–186 *includes 5 Occidental undergrad co-authors
- 84 DeRaad DA, ME Cobos, NR Hofmeister, LH DeCicco, MX Venkatraman, I Nishiumi, B McKay, F Zou, K Kawakami, C Kim, R Lin, T Yao, KL Garrett, SM Aguillon, JE McCormack, HL Mays Jr., AT Peterson, RG Moyle & AJ Shultz. 2024. On the brink of explosion? Identifying the source and potential spread of introduced *Zosterops* white-eyes in North America. **Biological Invasions** 26: 1615–1639
- 83 Ramirez BR, RJ Freeland*, A Muhlheim*, AJ Zellmer, DA DeRaad, EJ Kirsch*, MJ Mutchler, MB Secor*, KR Reckling*, ME Schedl*, B Durham, WLE Tsai, RS Terrill, S Sannapareddy*, AH Sivakumar, KL Garrett & JE McCormack. 2024. Convergent realized niche shifts in parrot sister-species (genus *Amazona*) introduced to southern California. **Diversity & Distributions** 30: e13817

- 82 Tsai WLE, M Escalona, KL Garrett, RS Terrill, R Sahasrabudhe, O Nguyen, E Beraut, W Seligmann, RJ Harrigan, JE McCormack, ME Alfaro, TB Smith & RA Bay. 2024. A highly contiguous genome assembly for the Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). **Heredity** 115: 317–325
- 81 Mota-Vargas C, J McCormack & O Rojas-Soto. 2024. Geographic variation in morphology and plumage within the Long-tailed Wood-Partridge (*Dendrortyx macroura*). **Wilson Journal of Ornithology** 135: 457-466
- 80 Nachman MW, et al. 2023. Specimen collection is essential for modern science. **PLoS Biology** 21: e3002318
- 79 DeRaad DA, M Escalona, P Benham, MPA Marimuthu, RM Sahasrabudhe, O Nguyen, N Chumchim, E Beraut, CW Fairbairn, W Seligmann, RCK Bowie, C Cicero, JE McCormack & RK Wayne. 2023. De novo assembly of a chromosome-level reference genome for the California Scrub-Jay, *Apelocoma californica*. **Heredity** 114: 669–680
- 78 McCormack JE, MM Hill*, DA DeRaad, EJ Kirsch*, KR Reckling*, MJ Mutchler*, BR Ramirez, RL Campbell, JF Salter, AK Pizarro, WLE Tsai & E Bonaccorso. 2023. An elevational shift facilitated the Mesoamerican diversification of Azure-hooded Jays (*Cyanolyca cucullata*) during the Great American Biotic Interchange. **Ecology & Evolution** 13: e10411
- 77 Benham PM, C Cicero, DA DeRaad, JE McCormack, RK Wayne, M Escalona, E Beraut, MPA Marimuthu, O Nguyen, MW Nachman & RCK Bowie. 2023. A highly contiguous reference genome for the Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*). **Heredity** 114: 549–56
- 76 Pizarro AK*, DA DeRaad & JE McCormack. 2023. Temporal stability of the hybrid zone between *Calocitta* magpie-jays revealed through comparison of museum specimens and iNaturalist photos. **Ecology & Evolution** 13: e9863
- 75 DeRaad DA, EE Applewhite*, WLE Tsai, RS Terrill, SE Kingston, MJ Braun & JE McCormack. 2023. Hybrid zone or hybrid lineage: a genomic reevaluation of Sibley's classic species conundrum in *Pipilo* towhees. **Evolution** 77: 852-869
- 74 Salter JF, PA Hosner, WLE Tsai, JE McCormack, EL Braun, RT Kimball, RT Brumfield & BC Faircloth. 2022. Historical specimens and the limits of subspecies phylogenomics in the New World quails (Odontophoridae). **Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution** 275: 107559
- 73 DeRaad DA, JE McCormack, N Chen, AT Peterson & RG Moyle. 2022. Combining species delimitation, species trees, and tests for gene flow clarifies complex speciation in scrub-jays. **Systematic Biology** 71: 1453-1470

- 72 Blair C, RW Bryson Jr, UO García-Vázquez, A Nieto-Montes De Oca, D Lazcano, JE McCormack & J Klicka. 2022. Phylogenomics of alligator lizards elucidate diversification patterns across the Mexican Transition Zone and support the recognition of a new genus. **Biological Journal of the Linnean Society** 135: 25-39
- 71 Bryson Jr RW, JA Grummer, EM Connors*, J Tirpak, JE McCormack & J Klicka. 2021. Cryptic diversity across the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt of Mexico in the montane bunchgrass lizard *Sceloporus subniger* (Squamata: Phrynosomatidae). **Zootaxa** 4963: 335-353
- 70 Caplan A, JM Maley & JE McCormack. 2020. Bridging biology and history: a case for collaboration. **Ethnohistory** 67:3
- 69 Medina JJ*, JM Maley, S Sannapareddy*, NN Medina*, CM Gilman* & JE McCormack. 2020. A rapid and cost-effective pipeline for digitization of museum specimens with 3D photogrammetry. **PLoS One** 15:e0236417
- 68 Tsai WLE, ME Schedl*, JM Maley & JE McCormack. 2020. More than skin and bones: comparing extraction methods and alternative sources of DNA from avian museum specimens. **Molecular Ecology Resources** 20:1220-1227
- 67 Pie MR, MR Bornschein, LF Ribeiro, BC Faircloth & JE McCormack. 2019. Phylogenomic species delimitation in microendemic frogs of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. **Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution** 141: 106627
- 66 Vinciguerra NT, WLE Tsai, BC Faircloth & JE McCormack. 2019. Comparison of ultraconserved elements (UCEs) to microsatellite markers for the study of avian hybrid zones: a test in *Apelocoma* jays. **BMC Research Notes** 12:456
- 65 Ströher PR, A Meyer, E Zarza, WLE Tsai, JE McCormack & MR Pie. 2019. Phylogeography of ants from the Brazilian Atlantic forest. **Organisms, Diversity & Evolution** 19:435-445
- 64 Palacios C, S García-R, JL Parra, AM Cuervo, G Stiles, JE McCormack & CD Cadena. 2019. Shallow genetic divergence and distinct phenotypic differences between two Andean hummingbirds: Speciation with gene flow? **The Auk** 136:ukz046
- 63 Linck E, K Epperly, P van Els, GM Spellman, RW Bryson Jr, JE McCormack, R Canales-del-Castillo & J Klicka. 2019. Dense geographic and genomic sampling reveals paraphyly and a cryptic lineage in a classic sibling species complex. **Systematic Biology** 68: 956-966

- 62 DeRaad DA*, JM Maley, WLE Tsai & JE McCormack. 2019. Phenotypic clines across an unstudied hybrid zone in Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhousei*). **The Auk** 136: uky018
- 61 Tsai WLE, C Mota-Vargas, O Rojas-Soto, R Bhowmik*, EY Liang*, JM Maley, E Zarza & JE McCormack. 2019. Museum genomics reveals the speciation history of *Dendrortyx* wood-partridges in the Mesoamerican highlands. **Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution** 136: 29-34
- 60 Venkatraman MX*, DA DeRaad*, WLE Tsai, E Zarza, AJ Zellmer, JM Maley & JE McCormack. 2019. Cloudy with a chance of speciation: integrative taxonomy reveals extraordinary divergence within a Mesoamerican cloud forest bird. **Biological Journal of the Linnean Society** 126: 1-15
- 59 Blair C, RW Bryson Jr, CW Linkem, D Lazcano, J Klicka & JE McCormack. 2019. Cryptic diversity in the Mexican highlands: thousands of UCE loci help illuminate phylogenetic relationships, species limits and divergence times of montane rattlesnakes (Viperidae: *Crotalus*). **Molecular Ecology Resources** 19: 249-265
- 58 Miller ET, JE McCormack, G Levandoski & BR McKinney. 2018. Sixty years on: birds of the Sierra del Carmen, Coahuila, Mexico, revisited. **Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club** 138: 318-334
- 57 Zarza E, EM Connors*, JM Maley, WLE Tsai, P Heimes, M Kaplan & JE McCormack. 2018. Bridging multilocus species delimitation and DNA barcoding through target enrichment of UCEs: a case study with Mexican highland frogs. **PeerJ** e6045
- 56 Michel AJ, LM Ward, SK Goffredi, KS Dawson, DT Baldassarre, A Brenner, KM Gotanda, JE McCormack, SW Mullin, A O'Neill, GS Tender, JAC Uy, K Yu, VJ Orphan & JA Chaves. 2018. The gut of the finch: uniqueness of the gut microbiome of the Galápagos vampire finch. **Microbiome** 6: 167
- 55 Friis G, G Fandos, AJ Zellmer, JE McCormack, BC Faircloth & B Milá. 2018. Genome-wide signals of drift and local adaptation during rapid lineage divergence in a songbird. **Molecular Ecology** 27: 5137-5153
- 54 Bryson Jr RW, DA Wood, MR Graham, ME Sotgiu & JE McCormack. 2018. Genome-wide SNP data and morphology support the distinction of two new species of *Kovarikia* Sotgiu, Fet & Graham, 2014 endemic to California (Scorpiones, Vaejovidae). **Zookeys** 739: 79-106

- 53 Bryson Jr RW, E Zarza, JA Gummer, G Parra-Olea, A Flores-Villela, J Klicka & JE McCormack. 2017. Phylogenomic insights into the diversification of salamanders in the *Isthmura bellii* group across the Mexican highlands. **Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution** 125: 78-84
- 52 Pie MR, BC Faircloth, MR Bornschein, LF Ribeiro & JE McCormack. 2017. Phylogenomics of montane frogs of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest is consistent with isolation in sky islands followed by climatic stability. **Biological Journal of the Linnean Society** 125: 72-82
- 51 Pie MR, PR Ströher, R Belmonte-Lopes, MR Bornschein, LF Ribeiro, BC Faircloth & JE McCormack. 2017. Phylogenetic relationships of diurnal, phytotelm-breeding *Melanophryniscus* (Anura: Bufonidae) based on mitogenomic data. **Gene** 628: 194-199
- 50 Lacey EA, TT Hammond, RE Walsh, KC Bell, SV Edwards, ER Ellwood, R Guralnick, SM Ickert Bond, AR Mast, JE McCormack, AK Monfils, PS Soltis, DE Soltis & JA Cook. 2017. Climate change, collections, and the classroom: using big data to tackle big problems. **Evolution: Education and Outreach** 10: 2
- 49 Pie MR, PR Ströher, MR Bornschein, LF Ribeiro, BC Faircloth & JE McCormack. 2017. The mitochondrial genome of *Brachycephalus brunneus* (Anura: Brachycephalidae), with comments on the phylogenetic position of Brachycephalidae. **Biochemical Systematics and Ecology** 71: 26-31
- 48 Bryson Jr RW, CW Linkem, CJ Pavón-Vázquez, A Nieto-Montes de Oca, J Klicka & JE McCormack. 2017. A phylogenomic perspective on the biogeography of skinks in the *Plestiodon brevirostris* group inferred from target enrichment of ultraconserved elements. **Journal of Biogeography** 44: 2033-2044
- 47 McCormack JE, F Rodríguez-Gómez, WLE Tsai & BC Faircloth. 2017. Transforming museum specimens into genomic resources. In: **Emerging Frontiers in Collections-based Ornithological Research: The Extended Specimen**. MS Webster, ed. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida
- 46 Ströher PR, E Zarza, WLE Tsai, JE McCormack, RM Feitosa & MR Pie. 2017. The mitochondrial genome of *Octostruma stenognatha* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) and its phylogenetic implications. **Insectes Sociaux** 64: 149-154
- 45 Maley JM, JE McCormack, WLE Tsai, EM Schwab*, J Van Dort, RC Juárez & MD Carling. 2016. Fonseca Mangrove Rail: a new subspecies from Honduras. **Western Birds** 47: 262-273
- 44 Maley JM, TM Liu*, WLE Tsai & JE McCormack. 2016. Molecular identification of a mystery rail from Panama results in the first country record of King Rail *Rallus elegans*. **Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club** 136: 291-292

- 43 Kaplan M, P Heimes, E Zarza & JE McCormack. 2016. On the morphology of *Plectrohyla chryses* (Anura: Hylidae: Hylini), with comments on some controversial characters, phylogenetic relationships, and diagnosis of this species. **Caldasia** 38: 257-273
- 42 Starrett J, S Derkarabetian, M Hedin, RW Bryson Jr, JE McCormack & BC Faircloth. 2016. High phylogenetic utility of an ultraconserved element probe set designed for Arachnida. **Molecular Ecology Resources** 17: 812-823
- 41 Zarza E, BC Faircloth, WLE Tsai, RW Bryson Jr, J Klicka & JE McCormack. 2016. Hidden histories of gene flow in highland birds revealed with genomic markers. **Molecular Ecology** 25: 5144-5157
- 40 Bryson Jr RW, WE Savary, AJ Zellmer, RB Bury & JE McCormack. 2016. Genomic data reveal ancient microendemism in forest scorpions across the California Floristic Province. **Molecular Ecology** 25: 3731-3751
- 39 Milá B, P Aleixandre, S Alvarez-Nordström & JE McCormack. 2016. More than meets the eye: lineage diversity and evolutionary history of dark-eyed and yellow-eyed juncos. In: **Snowbird: Integrative Biology and Evolutionary Diversity in the Junco**. ED Ketterson & JW Atwell, eds. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois
- 38 Bryson Jr RW, BC Faircloth, WLE Tsai, JE McCormack & J Klicka. 2016. Target enrichment of thousands of ultraconserved elements sheds new light on the early relationships within New World sparrows (Aves: Passerellidae). **The Auk** 133: 451-458
- 37 Alvarez S, JF Salter*, JE McCormack & B Milá. 2016. Speciation in mountain refugia: phylogeography and demographic history of the pine siskin and black-capped siskin complex. **Journal of Avian Biology** 47: 335-345
- 36 Edwards SV, Z Xi, A Janke, BC Faircloth, JE McCormack, TC Glenn, B Zhong, S Wu, EM Lemmon, AR Lemmon, AD Leache, L Liu & CC Davis. 2016. Implementing and testing the multispecies coalescent model: a valuable paradigm for phylogenomics. **Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution** 94: 447-462
- 35 Toews DPL, et al. 2016. Genomic approaches to understanding population divergence and speciation in birds. **The Auk** 133: 13-30
- 34 McCormack JE, WLE Tsai & BC Faircloth. 2016. Sequence capture of ultraconserved elements from bird museum specimens. **Molecular Ecology Resources** 16: 1189-1203

- 33 Kaplan M, P Heimes & J McCormack. 2015. Contributions to the morphology of *Plectrohyla mykter* (Anura: Hylidae), with comments on some controversial characters and the diagnosis of this species. **Caldasia** 37: 211-220
- 32 Ribiero RD, JE McCormack, HG Alvarez, L Carrasco, GF Grether, P Mena, R Sedano, TB Smith & J Karubian. 2015. Loss of sexual dimorphism is associated with loss of lekking behavior in the green manakin *Xenopipo holochlora*. **Journal of Avian Biology** 46: 307-314
- 31 McCormack JE & JM Maley. 2015. Interpreting negative results with taxonomic and conservation implications: another look at distinctness of coastal California gnatcatchers. **The Auk** 132: 380-388
- 30 Jarvis ED & 105 co-authors. 2014. Whole genome analyses resolve early branches in the tree of life of modern birds. **Science** 346: 1320-1331
- 29 Green RE & 54 co-authors. 2014. Three crocodilian genomes reveal ancestral patterns of evolution among archosaurs. **Science** 346: 1254449
- 28 Smith BT, JE McCormack, AM Cuervo, MJ Hickerson, A Aleixo, CD Cadena, J Pérez-Emán, CW Burney, X Xie, MG Harvey, BC Faircloth, TC Glenn, EP Derryberry, J Prejean, S Fields & RT Brumfield. 2014. The drivers of tropical speciation. **Nature** 515: 406-409
- 27 Gowen FC, JM Maley, C Cicero, AT Peterson, BC Faircloth, TC Warr* & JE McCormack. 2014. Speciation in Western Scrub-Jays, Haldane's rule, and genetic clines in secondary contact. **BMC Evolutionary Biology** 14: 135
- 26 McCormack JE & MX Venkatraman*. 2013. A distinctive genetic footprint of ancient hybridization. **The Auk** 130: 469-475
- 25 McCormack JE, MG Harvey, BC Faircloth, NG Crawford, TC Glenn & RT Brumfield. 2013. A phylogeny of birds based on over 1,500 loci collected by target enrichment and high-throughput sequencing. **PLoS One** 8: e54848
- 24 McCormack JE & BC Faircloth. 2013. Next-generation phylogenetics takes root. **Molecular Ecology** 22: 19-21
- 23 McCormack JE, SM Hird, AJ Zellmer, BC Carstens & RT Brumfield. 2013. Applications of next-generation sequencing to phylogeography and phylogenetics. **Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution** 66: 526-538
- 22 Crawford NG, BC Faircloth, JE McCormack, RT Brumfield, K Winker & TC Glenn. 2012. More than 1,000 ultraconserved elements provide evidence that turtles are the sister group of archosaurs. **Biology Letters** 8: 783-786

- 21 St. John JA & 47 co-authors. 2012. Sequencing three crocodilian genomes to illuminate the evolution of archosaurs and amniotes. **Genome Biology** 13: 415
- 20 Faircloth BC, JE McCormack, NG Crawford, MG Harvey, RT Brumfield & TC Glenn. 2012. Ultraconserved elements anchor thousands of genetic markers for target enrichment spanning multiple evolutionary timescales. **Systematic Biology** 61: 717-726
- 19 McCormack JE, BC Faircloth, NG Crawford, PA Gowaty, RT Brumfield & TC Glenn. 2012. Ultraconserved elements are novel phylogenomic markers that resolve placental mammal phylogeny when combined with species tree analysis. **Genome Research** 22: 746-754
- 18 McCormack JE, JM Maley, SM Hird, EP Derryberry, GR Graves & RT Brumfield. 2012. Next-generation sequencing reveals population genetic structure and a species tree for recent bird divergences. **Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution** 62: 397-406
- 17 Berg EC, RA Aldredge, AT Peterson & JE McCormack. 2012. New phylogenetic information suggests both an increase and at least one loss of cooperative breeding during the evolutionary history of *Aphelocoma* jays. **Evolutionary Ecology** 26: 43-54
- 16 Arteaga MC, JE McCormack, LA Eguiarte & RA Medellín. 2011. Genetic admixture in multidimensional environmental space: asymmetrical niche similarity promotes gene flow in armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). **Evolution** 65: 2470-2480
- 15 McCormack JE, J Heled, KS Delaney, AT Peterson & LL Knowles. 2011. Calibrating divergence times on species trees versus gene trees: Implications for speciation history of *Aphelocoma* jays. **Evolution** 65: 184-202
- 14 McCormack JE, AJ Zellmer & LL Knowles. 2010. Does niche divergence accompany allopatric divergence in *Aphelocoma* jays as predicted under ecological speciation?: Insights from tests with niche models. **Evolution** 64: 1231-1244
- 13 McCormack JE & EC Berg. 2010. Small-scale divergence in egg color along an elevation gradient in the Mexican Jay: a condition-dependent response? **The Auk** 127: 35-43
- 12 McCormack JE, H Huang & LL Knowles. 2010. Maximum-likelihood estimates of species trees: how accuracy of phylogenetic inference depends upon the divergence history and sampling design. **Systematic Biology** 58: 501-508
- 11 Pease KM, A Freedman, JP Pollinger, WP Buermann, JE McCormack, J Rodzen, J Banks, E Meredith, V Bleich, K Jones & RK Wayne. 2009. Landscape genetics of California mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*): the roles of ecological and historical factors in generating differentiation. **Molecular Ecology** 18: 1848-1862

- 10 McCormack JE, H Huang, & LL Knowles. Sky islands. In: **Encyclopedia of Islands**. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA
- 9 Berg EC, JE McCormack & TB Smith. 2009. Test of an adaptive hypothesis for egg speckling along an elevational gradient in a population of Mexican jays (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*). **Journal of Avian Biology** 40: 448-452
- 8 McCormack JE & TB Smith. 2008. Niche expansion leads to small-scale adaptive divergence along an elevation gradient in a medium-sized passerine bird. **Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B** 275: 2155-2164
- 7 McCormack JE, BS Bowen & TB Smith. 2008. Integrating paleoecology and genetics of bird populations in two sky island archipelagos. **BMC Biology** 6: 28
- 6 McCormack JE, AT Peterson, E Bonaccorso & TB Smith. 2008. Speciation in the highlands of Mexico: genetic and phenotypic divergence in the Mexican jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*). **Molecular Ecology** 17: 2505-2521
- 5 Milá B, JE McCormack, G Castañeda, TB Smith & RK Wayne. 2007. Recent postglacial range expansion drives the rapid diversification of a songbird lineage in the genus *Junco*. **Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B** 274: 2653-2660
- 4 McCormack JE, P Jablonski & JL Brown. 2007. Producer-scrrounger roles and the effect of dominance on preferential joining in a free-living group of Mexican jays (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*). **Behaviour** 144: 967-982
- 3 McCormack JE, G Castañeda-Guayasamin & G Levandoski. 2007. Sierra Santa Rosa: an oasis of bird diversity in arid northern Mexico. **Ornitología Neotropical** 18: 369-377
- 2 McCormack JE, G Castañeda Guayasamin, B Milá & F Heredia-Pineda. 2005. Slate-throated redstarts (*Myioborus miniatus*) breeding in Maderas del Carmen, Coahuila, Mexico. **Southwestern Naturalist** 50: 501-503
- 1 Avilés L, J McCormack, A Cutter & T Bukowski. 2000. Precise, highly female-biased sex ratios in a social spider. **Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B** 267: 1445-1449

Extramural Grants

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| • Harold and Coleen Brown Family Foundation | \$500,000 | 2024 |
| • National Science Foundation, Division of Biological Infrastructure | \$41,784 | 2022 |
| • Harold and Coleen Brown Family Foundation | \$300,000 | 2021 |

• National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology	\$41,784	2021
• National Science Foundation, Division of Biological Infrastructure	\$172,504	2020
• National Science Foundation, Division of Biological Infrastructure	\$226,559	2018
• National Science Foundation, Division of Biological Infrastructure	\$346,916	2018
• National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology	\$787,347	2017
• Keck Foundation	\$400,000	2014
• Fletcher Jones Foundation	\$750,000	2015
• National Science Foundation, Division of Biological Infrastructure	\$399,598	2014
• National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology	\$300,000	2013
• National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology	\$53,849	2012
• UC Mexus, Doctoral Dissertation Grant	\$11,400	2005
• National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship	\$98,500	2001

Popular Press and Podcasts

- The Guardian article on FLAPP, 2025 [\[link\]](#)
- Wrong Answers Only, science comedy live show at Dyansty Typewriter, 2025
- LAist/KPCC article on FLAPP, 2024
- Los Angeles Times article on FLAPP, 2024
- Los Angeles Times article on Bear Divide migration corridor, 2022
- Smologies podcast with Alie Ward, 2022
- Los Angeles Times article on the Moore Lab, 2021
- American Birding Association Podcast on Los Angeles Parrots, 2021
- Audubon Magazine article on using historical bird records with eBird, 2020
- Science Friday article on 3D bird models, 2019
- Ologies podcast with Alie Ward discussing evolution, 2018
- Research focus of KCET coverage of a threatened bird, 2016
- Focus of Los Angeles Times article on bird and crocodilian genomics, 2015

On-Camera Media Appearances

- **CBS Weekend News** segment on the Parrot Project 2024
- **Los Angeles Times** video article on the Moore Lab collection 2021
- **Scientific American** video article on the 3D birds Project 2021

- **bioGraphic** narrative video on Mexican Bird Resurvey Project 2020
- **Documentary** on taxidermy, *Stuffed* (IMDB credit) 2019
- **Video Series**, *The Ordinary Extraordinary Junco* 2013

Writing for a General Audience

- **Article** on species concepts, Western Field Ornithologists' newsletter, 2021
- **Book Review** of *An Expedition to Ramsey Canyon: The 1896 Field Journal of Ornithologist Harry S. Swarth*, by Christopher W. Swarth, Wrentit, 2019
- **Blog Post** on 3D bird models (co-authored w/ Josh Medina), Sketchfab, 2019
- **Legal Brief** on species definitions in the Endangered Species Act (co-authored w/ Harvard Law), 2018
- **Article** on the utility of the Moore Lab collection, Birding Magazine, 2018
- **Op-Ed** on public funding for museums, Los Angeles Times, 2018
- **Letter to the Editor** on the threatened California Gnatcatcher, Los Angeles Times, 2014
- **Letter to the Editor** published in The New Yorker (September 15, 2003 issue)
- **Book Review** of *Carl Sagan: A Life* by Keay Davidson, Tucson Weekly, 2000

Consulting

- **Scientific Consulting Board**, Sherman Fairchild Foundation, 2017–present
- **Scientific Consultant**, Human Safari, Travel Channel (IMDB credit), 2013

Teaching and Mentoring

Research Mentoring (since 2011 at Occidental College):

- Undergraduates: 125
 - 7 undergrad alumni with NSF GRFP awards
 - 17 papers with undergrad co-authors
- High School Students: 12
 - 2 papers with high school student co-authors

Courses Taught as Instructor of Record:

- **Core 100: In the Moment: Higher Ed Under Fire** Occidental College 2025
- **Evolutionary Biology** Occidental College 2025, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011

- **Avian Biology** Occidental College 2026, 2021, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012
- **Molecular Phylogenetics** Occidental College 2022, 2020, 2013
- **Senior Comprehensive Seminar** Occidental College 2020, 2016, 2013
- **Museum Science** Occidental College 2023, 2020, 2014, 2013, 2012

Invited Talks

- Arizona State University (Feb 2025)
- UCLA (June 2024)
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles (May 2024)
- Chirp Nature Center (Sept 2021)
- LA Birders (Sept & May 2021)
- Conejo Valley Audubon (May 2021)
- San Fernando Valley Audubon (April 2021)
- Pomona Audubon (Oct 2019)
- Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (Sept 2019)
- UC Berkeley (Mar 2019)
- Los Angeles Breakfast Club (Aug 2018)
- Episcopal School of Los Angeles (2018)
- Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society (Oct 2017)
- Cal Poly Pomona (Apr 2017)
- Azusa Pacific University (2017)
- Pasadena Audubon Society (Feb 2016)
- Los Angeles Audubon Society (Jun 2015)
- UC Riverside (Jun 2015)
- San Diego Field Ornithologists (Mar 2015)
- Field Museum, Chicago (Mar 2015)
- Southern California Ornithological Group, UCLA (Feb 2015)
- CSU Dominguez Hills (Oct 2014)
- American Museum of Natural History, NYC (Nov 2013)
- University of Southern California (Oct 2013)
- University of New Mexico (Apr 2013)
- Harvey Mudd College (Feb 2013)
- Natural History Museum of LA County (Feb 2013)
- San Diego State University (Sept 2012)
- UC Berkeley (Mar 2012)
- Pomona College (Oct 2011)
- University of Kansas (2011)
- Southeastern Louisiana University (2011)
- University of Mississippi (2010)
- Occidental College (2010)

- CSU Northridge (2010)
- Louisiana State University (2010)
- University of Arizona (2009)
- University of Michigan (2008)
- Dartmouth College (2008)
- CSU Northridge (2007)
- Harvard University (2006)

Conference Presentations

- **Wilson Ornithological Society**, 2025, Los Angeles, CA
 - 6 lab attending: 2 staff talks, 1 student poster
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2024, Estes Park, CO
 - 5 lab attending: 3 staff talks, 1 student talk, 1 student poster
- **Evolution**, 2024, Montreal, Canada
 - 1 student poster
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2022, San Juan, Puerto Rico
 - 13 lab attending: 2 student talks, 4 student posters, 2 staff talks, 2 staff posters
- **Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation**, 2022, Cartagena, Colombia
 - 1 postdoc talk
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2021, Virtual
 - 1 student talk (honorable mention), 1 staff talk
- **Evolution**, 2021, Virtual
 - Invited Talk: Anthropogenic hybridization in *Amazona* parrots
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2020, Online
 - Invited Talk: Museum specimens & citizen science in Mexico's birdlife
 - 3 staff talks
- **Evolution**, 2020, Virtual
 - Talk: Museum specimens for parrot hybridization
- **Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists**, 2019, Snowbird, UT
 - Talk: Genomic data uncover Mexican frog lineages
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2019, Anchorage, AK
 - 2 student posters, 3 staff talks
- **Congreso para el Estudio y Conservación de Aves en México**, 2018, Saltillo, Mexico
 - Invited Keynote: 100 years of change to Mexico's birds
- **American Ornithological Society**, Tucson, AZ
 - Poster: Evolutionary history of New World Jays
 - 5 student posters, 1 staff talk
- **American Ornithological Society**, 2017, East Lansing, MI
 - Invited Talk: Hybrid zone in Towhees
 - 1 student poster, 1 staff talk
- **North American Ornithological Congress**, 2016, Washington, DC
 - Talk: Gene flow in highland birds
 - Invited Symposium Talk: Museum genomics in education
 - 1 student talk, 2 student posters, 3 staff talks

- **Evolution**, 2016, Austin, TX
 - Talk: Gene flow in highland birds
- **American Society for Ethnohistory**, 2015, Las Vegas, NV
 - Invited Talk: Moore Lab's Mexican bird collection & ethnohistory
- **American Ornithologists' Union/Cooper Ornithological Society**, 2014, Estes Park, CO
 - Invited Symposium Talk: Speciation in scrub-jays
 - 1 student talk, 2 staff talks
- **American Ornithologists' Union/Cooper Ornithological Society**, 2013, Chicago, IL
 - Invited Symposium Talk: DNA loci from museum specimens
 - 1 student talk, 1 Master's student talk
- **Evolution**, 2014, Snowbird, UT
 - Talk: Tetrapod history via high-throughput sequencing
 - 1 student talk
- **North American Ornithological Congress**, 2012, Vancouver, Canada
 - Invited Symposium Talk: Bird tree of life via sequence capture
 - 1 student talk, 1 Master's student poster
- **Evolution**, 2012, Ottawa, Canada
 - Talk: Bird tree of life via sequence capture
- **Evolution**, 2011, Norman, OK
 - Talk: Ultraconserved elements in bird & mammal phylogeny
- **Evolution**, 2010, Portland, OR
 - Talk: Next-generation sequencing in phylogeography
- **Evolution**, 2009, Moscow, ID
 - Talk: Speciation in *Aphelocoma* jays
 - Invited Symposium Talk: Phylogeny of *Aphelocoma* jays
- **Evolution**, 2008, Minneapolis, MN
 - Talk: Gene tree discordance in phylogenetic reconstruction
- **Neotropical Ornithological Congress**, 2007, Maturín, Venezuela
 - Talk: Genetic differentiation in Mexican jays
- **North American Ornithological Congress**, 2006, Veracruz, Mexico
 - Talk: Phylogeography of Mexican jays
- **American Ornithologists' Union**, 2005, Santa Barbara, CA
 - Talk: Bill morphology in Mexican jays (student award)
- **Animal Behavior Society**, 2004, Oaxaca, Mexico
 - Poster: Social roles in Mexican jays

Service

Editorial:

- Associate Editor, *Systematic Biology*, 2013–2019
- Editorial Board Member, *Systematic Biology*, 2012–2018

Professional Committees:

- Executive Board, National Science Collections Alliance, 2018–present
- Elected Council, Society of Systematic Biologists, 2015–2019

- Chair, American Ornithologists' Union/Cooper Ornithological Society Joint Communications Committee, 2015–2016
- Nominations Committee, Cooper Ornithological Society, Board of Directors, 2011–2013

Memberships:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (Elected Fellow '23)
- Society for the Study of Evolution
- Society for Systematic Biologists (Lifetime)
- American Ornithological Society (Elective Member '15, Elected Fellow '19)
- Wilson Ornithological Society

Student Dissertation Committees:

- 2024-2025: Thesis Committee Member, PhD student, Nicholas Vinciguerra (University of New Mexico)
- 2024-2025: Thesis Committee Member, PhD student, David Anchundia (University of Vienna)
- 2022–2024: Outside Committee Member, Master's student, Ezra Mendales (San Francisco State University)
- 2018–2022: Outside Committee Member, PhD student, Xuanyi Wu (UCLA, Materials Science and Engineering)
- 2013–2019: Outside Committee Member, PhD student, Guillermo Friis (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid)
- 2011–2013: Advisor, Master's student, Fiona Gowen (Occidental College)
- 2010: Outside Committee Member, Master's student, Angela Navas-Berdugo (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá)

Major College Committees

- **Presidential Search Advisory Committee**, 2023
- **Faculty Council President**, 2023–2025
- **Faculty Council**, 2014–2016
- **Committee for Intellectual Community**, 2017–2018

Languages

- **Spanish**: Professional Working Proficiency