



MEET THE MVZ

A newsletter highlighting members of our community



The Golden-Crowned Sparrow,
Zonotrichia atricapilla
Photo by Erin Person

MVZ HIGHLIGHT:

COVID-19

ONE YEAR LATER

In this issue we highlight how members of the MVZ community have adjusted, refocused, and reflected after one full year under lockdown

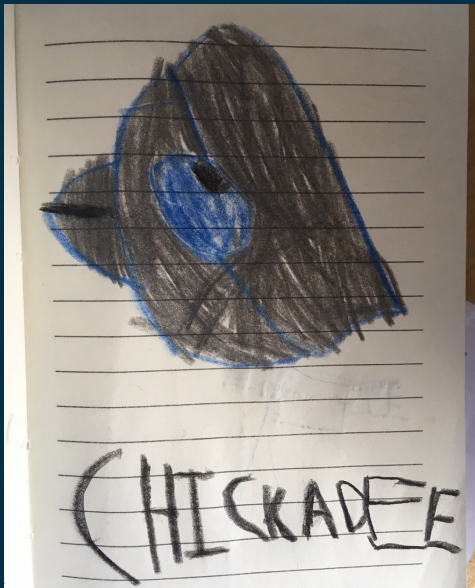
PANDEMIC REFLECTIONS

EMILIE RICHARDS

"I am most proud of getting better at forgiving myself when I don't meet my unrealistic expectations for productivity. Or maybe I am most proud of getting my cat to sit in my hoodie so I could cuddle her and work with both hands at the same time. It's tied."

AMMON CORL

*"I have been home schooling my daughter this last year. I am especially proud to have gotten her excited in science. We have done lots of fun science activities together, such as making a rainbow with water glasses, looking at things under a microscope, figuring out what things make the best parachutes, and exploring how craters are formed. My daughter has also learned to identify some birds, search for *Batrachoseps* salamanders, and enjoy nature walks."*



Picture: Spot on depiction of a chickadee. Drawn by Ammon's daughter Alexandra.

SHANNON O'BRIEN

"I'm really proud to be part of a lab that has a great sense of community and support for one another. I'm also proud that I submitted my second dissertation chapter to Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology (revisions under review now, fingers crossed!)"



Picture: Shannon and fellow MVZ members Kwasi Wrensford and Erin Person out hiking.

JACKIE CHILDERS

"Working from home has facilitated more collaborations with people abroad at other universities than I think would have been possible under normal circumstances."



PANDEMIC PIVOTS

EILEEN LACEY

Research: "I cleaned a lot of artificial tuco burrow systems! I wish that the past year had been more creative or more productive, but I've spent much of it simply taking care of my captive animals."

New Achievement: "I survived. Actually, I started working out a lot more than I had been and physically feel really fit. I think that was necessary to keep me sane during the endless months of doing the same things over and over."

CHRIS CONROY

Research: "More field work on shrews and voles. Stayed home, mostly."

New Achievement: "I've started giving blood!"

MICHELLE ST. JOHN

Research: "The plan was to take high speed video of hybrid pupfish eating from these fish cubes I make. We got a new fancy camera to do that but I couldn't learn how to use it in person. I found someone who knew how to use the camera and was comfortable with pupfish: My advisor Chris Martin. What a twist to have your advisor collecting data for you to analyze!!!"

New Achievement: "I hosted a virtual murder mystery party for my family over zoom. It was so fun and my mother turned out to be the murderer so A+ time all around."



DAVID WAKE

Research: "I am trying to work on at least two monographs but it is tough without access to collection and notes. So I am mainly mopping up collaborative projects and describing new species of salamanders (8 in 2020 alone)."

New Achievement: "In addition to several publications I survived a major surgical intervention."



MARIA NAVARRETE

New Achievement: "I gave my first presentation of 2021 for an amazing audience from Cotacachi, Ecuador. In my presentation, I talked about 'superpowers' in nature to show children how, in spite of all the abilities that animals have, they can't protect themselves and their home from mining. But children also have a superpower: the power to fight for conservation."



LOOKING FORWARD

"I look forward to hugging my friends and laughing out loud without a mask on!"

Shannon O'Brien

"MVZ Friday Social. Haven't had an oreo in a long time."

David Tian

"I am looking forward to having your everyday, casual cheese and laminator pranks with my office mates once again."

Emilie Richards

"Chatting to office mates while I code or talking about the random stuffed organisms in the library was so helpful when forming ideas. So in general I look forward to talking with y'all in person again :D"

Michelle St. John

"Fieldwork, travel in general."

Chris Conroy

"Getting to the museum regularly and going out for lunch or dinner occasionally, and doing some traveling."

David Wake

"My wife and I are fully vaccinated, and we're headed to the desert in April for 6-8 weeks, in part to do what we had planned to do last spring."

Jim Patton

"Travel! For field work and fun."

Eileen Lacey

"Whatever doesn't involve Zoom."

Maria Navarrete

"In-person seminars, casual conversations in the MVZ, getting coffee from the VLSB courtyard and sitting out on the steps of the VLSB. Oh, and the ringing bells of the Campanile of course."

Jackie Childers

NEW WORK-FROM-HOME COWORKERS!



**Kwasi Wrensford's new
coworker: Pogo**

**David Tian's new boss:
Cosmo**



**Daisy Horr's new office
mates: Fig & Cleo**



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