

Kayleigh Chalkowski



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Profile

I am a field biologist with an interdisciplinary approach. I translate my experiences in the field to illustrations that teach the public about ecology and conservation efforts.

Education

M.Sc. candidate in Cellular and Molecular Bioscience, Auburn University (current)

B.Sc. in Biological Sciences (conc. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)
Cornell University, 2013
Ithaca, NY

A.Sc. in Mathematics and Science
Hudson Valley Community College, 2010
Troy, NY

Research Skill Set

Passerine nest searching
Target-netting
Mist-netting
Predator control
Point counts
Avian specimen prep
Passerine, waterbird,
and seabird banding

Awards

IUCN World Conservation
Congress Student Participation
Opportunity Award, 2016

Segal Education Award, 2014

Frederich C.V. Bruch Award for
Excellence in the Organic
Chemistry Laboratory, 2010

RPI Award for Excellence, 2010

Warren Joscelyn
Mathematics Award, 2009

Creative Skill Set

Children's Book Illustration
Taxidermy
Community Outreach
Graphic Design
Mural Art

Work Experience

Ark of the Unicorns; Honolulu, HI
Curator of *The Endangered Ark Group Exhibition*
January 2017-June 2017

I conceptualized the idea for the show and collaborated with Nanci Amaka, owner of Ark of the Unicorns alternative gallery space to curate an exhibition which would “celebrate the endangered species of Hawai’i through art and community action.” We exhibited local artists from Kaua’i and Oahu including Michelle Schwengel-Regala, Kirsten Carlson, Tammy Yee, Deanna Gabiga, Nanci Amaka, Ryan Schulz, Danya Weber, and myself. The exhibit is featuring an interactive component where visitors to the exhibit can write on printed postcards about why they value endangered species protections. 30% of all proceeds are being donated to Kaua’i Forest Bird Recovery Project to support on-the-ground conservation efforts. More details about the show to come after the closing on June 2nd.

Work Experience (cont'd)

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii;
Disease Ecology Technician
February 2017-May 2017

I designed and implemented chicken traps and a system for organizing data. By end of season I will have captured, banded and bled ~300 feral chickens across different land use types (agricultural, public beaches and parks, wildlife refuges) on the island of Kaua'i. This position requires ability to coordinate with supervisor and landowners for sampling schedule, proficiency in jugular bleeding, and ability to work independently.

Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Americorps Intern
October 2015-August 2016

I wrote the protocol for all cat trapping activities and A24 rodent control methods on KNWRC. Main responsibilities included running and maintaining two traplines for a total of about 47 feral cat traps; nest monitoring and resighting of Laysan Albatross; rodenticide bait station maintenance; tracking tunnel monitoring; assisting in banding of seabirds and waterbirds (chicks and adults); surveying for invasive Barn Owls; and data management and mapping for all trapping, rodenticide, tracking tunnel and Laysan Albatross data. Work at KNWRC required ability to drive ATV/UTV, and responsiveness to the needs of the refuge.

Audio Recordist, Macaulay Library
January 2013-present (various dates)

Obtained recordings of bird songs while on field excursions in Sabah, Borneo as well as the Alaka'i Preserve on Kaua'i. I have been responsible for coordinating with lab archivists for shipping of equipment and archiving recordings to Macaulay Library with appropriate metadata.

Field Technician on
Golden-Cheeked Warbler Crew; Fort Hood, TX
February 2015-June 2015

I was given training on mist-netting, banding, and distance sampling. Throughout the season, I was responsible for independent data collection through nest searching and nest monitoring, resighting banded birds, target-netting for unbanded birds using playback, and weekly point counts using GPS and compass navigation. Travel to field site involved extensive off-road driving using a vehicle with manual transmission.

Field Technician for Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project; Kaua'i, Hawai'i
September 2014- December 2014

I helped assess mitigation techniques to reduce seabird collisions with power lines through seabird surveys. Each survey required accurate identification of the Newell's Shearwater and the Hawaiian Petrel through night vision as well as behavioral observations. I was responsible for my own data management, as well as proofing and organizing everyone's data at the end of the season. I also participated in preparation for field operations and loading of helicopter slings. This position required work early mornings and late evenings; frequent primitive camping; and familiarity with helicopter safety.

Work Experience (cont'd)

Contracted Illustrator;
Kaua'i Endangered Forest Bird Recovery Project
December 2015-present and September 2014-December 2014

Commissioned to complete a set of 9 illustrations for a childrens book written by Sally Jo "Keahi" Manea, "He Mo`olelo Pökole," in collaboration with KFBRP. In addition to the illustrations, I have also volunteered my time to design the layout. Previous contract was to complete a series of digital illustrations of birds and plants for another children's book, "Who Am I" by Kaila Ritchie.

Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery
Project; Americorps Intern
October 2013-August 2014

Throughout the 9-month duration of this position, I participated in field operations including banding and mist-netting of native forest birds; nest searching and monitoring; installation of A24 rat traps and track tunnels along a grid transect; and installation and takedown of seed traps. Field work in the Alaka'i Preserve required acclimation to a wet, cold climate for up to 10-day trips in a tent. As part of the crew, I was responsible for helping with back-country field operations, loading of helicopter slings and maintenance of field camps and equipment. During the off-season I designed outreach materials including the yearly newsletter; participated in outreach events; and helped with data management, equipment management, and organization of media

Tree Swallow Field Site, Ithaca, NY; Field Assistant
May 2014-July 2014

As a field assistant, I was responsible for daily monitoring of nests for status of clutches; banding, measuring and blood-sampling of nestlings and adults; targeted capture at active nest boxes; and behavioral responses to novelty. I was also solely responsible for extraction of plasma from all blood samples collected on my field site.

Outreach at Chinese primary school in Tawau, Malaysia
March 2014-April 2014

Myself and three other crew members from Ivy Expeditions visited classes in a primary school near Tawau Hills Park to teach them about birds and our work in the park. I was responsible for creating my own lesson plan and teaching materials, and later adapted them to different age groups depending on the childrens' proficiency in English.

Ivy Expeditions; Tawau, Borneo
February 2014-May 2014

I participated in a 3-month expedition to Malaysian Borneo to gather life-history data for Suboscines. Throughout the season, we target-captured individuals; setup aerial nets for general and targeted capture; mist-netted, banded, measured and blood-sampled a variety of bird species; and prepared fluid specimens and spread wings. We also used a wide range of equipment to take audio and video recordings of target species for archival to Macaulay Library. I was responsible for my own data management and media curation with metadata.

Shows

May 2017, *The Endangered Ark*, Ark of the Unicorns; Honolulu, HI; Group Exhibition

March 2017, *Field Notes*; The Outpost Gallery at Hound & Quail; Honolulu, HI; Solo Exhibition

September 2016, *All for 'Alala*; Volcano Art Center; Hilo, HI; Juried Exhibition; Honorable Mention

References

Can provide references upon inquiry