João Carnio Teles de Menezes

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Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst • 2020–26
Ph.D., Organismic & Evolutionary Biology
Title: 'Causes and consequences of loud singing in birds'
Advisor: Jeffrey E. Podos

University of São Paulo • 2016–19
M.Sc., Ecology
Title: 'Habitat structure drives the evolution of aerial displays in birds'
Advisors: Eduardo S. A. Santos & Rafael Maia

Mackenzie University • 2011–15
B.Sc., Biology
Title: 'Predators of bird nests in the New World: diversity and current knowledge'
Advisors: Paola L. Dall'Occo & Miguel Â. Marini

Peer-reviewed Articles

8. **Menezes, JCT** & J Podos (in press). Evolutionary drivers of vocal amplitude in birds. *Evolution*.

7. **Menezes, JCT** & J Podos (2025). Diverse relationships between amplitude and frequency in bird vocalizations. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 292: 20250781. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2025.0781

6. Graham, ZA, JJ Florentino, SP Smithers, **JCT Menezes**, JE Carvalho & AV Palaoro (2025). Claw coloration in the fiddler crab *Leptuca uruguayensis* has no correlation with male quality. *Current Zoology* 71: 109–123. https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoae035

5. **Menezes, JCT** & AV Palaoro (2022). Flight hampers the evolution of weapons in birds. *Ecology Letters* 25: 624–634. https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13964

4. **Menezes, JCT** & ESA Santos (2020). Habitat structure drives the evolution of aerial displays in birds. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 89: 482–493. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13132

3. **Menezes, JCT** & MÂ Marini (2017). Predators of bird nests in the Neotropics: a review. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 88: 99–114. https://doi.org/10.1111/jofo.12203

2. **Menezes, JCT** (2014). Spontaneous approach and apparent play solicitation by a young free-living tayra *Eira barbara* in response to the observer's presence. *Revista de Etologia* 13: 25–29. https://doi.org/10.22491/etologia.v13n2.art5

1. **Menezes, JCT**, BC Barbosa & F Prezoto (2014). Previously unreported nesting associations of the Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*) with social wasps and bees. *Ornitología Neotropical* 25: 363–368.

Grants & Awards

Fellowships & Research Grants

UMass Spaulding-Smith Fellowship ($64,000) • 2021, 25
UMass Fieldwork Grant ($5,000) • 2024
UMass Natural History Collections Scholarship ($5,000) • 2022
UMass Predissertation Grant ($1,000) • 2022
UMass OEB First Year Fellowship ($5,762) • 2021
ABS Developing Nations Research Grant ($1,652) • 2019
CAPES Master's Fellowship ($10,600) • 2016–18

Travel Awards

UMass IDGP Travel Award • 2022, 25
Animal Behavior Society • 2018, 22
UMass Graduate School Travel Award • 2022
Princeton EEB Scholars Program • 2018

Society Membership

AAAS/Science Program for Excellence in Science • 2021–present

Presentations

presented as *poster or †talk

Contributed Presentations

Evolutionary drivers of vocal amplitude in birds
†*Animal Behavior Society, Baltimore, MD • 2025*

Relationship between amplitude and frequency in bird vocalizations
†*Animal Behavior Society, San José, Costa Rica • 2022*

Flight hampers the evolution of weapons in birds

†Animal Behavior Society (Virtual) • 2020

Habitat structure drives the evolution of aerial displays in birds

†Animal Behavior Society, Milwaukee, WI • 2018

Lack of remote monitoring of nests may explain why few Neotropical nest predators are mammals

**Ornithological Congress of the Americas, P. Iguazú, Argentina • 2018*

A meta-analysis of New World nest predators

**Neotropical Ornithological Congress, Manaus, Brazil • 2015*

Invited Talk

Why do some birds sing so loud? From diversity to extremes

†EcoEncontros Seminar Series, São Paulo, Brazil • 2026

Reviewing Experience

Scientific Journals

(chronological)

Ecology Letters (1) • F1000Research (1) • Proceedings B (5) • Nature Communications (1) • Ornithology/The Auk (3) • Ecology & Evolution (1) • Ornithology Research/Brazilian J. of Ornithology (6) • PeerJ (3) • J. of Herpetology (2) • J. of Ethology (1) • Wilson J. of Ornithology (3) • Ornitología Neotropical (2)

Society Grants

Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant (3)

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

Introductory Biology II • UMass Amherst • 2025

Graded weekly reflection assignments by 284 students

Evolution • UMass Amherst • 2024

Guest speaker in six lectures • led grading team • helped design assignments

Animal Behavior • UMass Amherst • 2022, 23

Led four lab sections total (24 students per section)

Experimental Comparative Physiology • UMass Amherst • 2022

Led two lab sections (24 students per section)

Animal Behavior • U. of São Paulo • 2019

Assisted students at in-class exercises

Use of R for Data Analysis in Ecology • U. of São Paulo • 2018

Assisted students at in-class exercises

Service & Outreach

Engagement & Leadership

OEB Mentoring Committee • 2022–24

Helped run peer mentoring program for incoming students • mentored three students

OEB Seminars Committee • 2022–23

Elected student representative • helped curate and organize weekly seminars

EcoEncontros Seminars Committee • 2018–20

Helped organize 91 seminars • created ecoencontros.ib.usp.br/en website • treasurer

Butantan Institute • 2017–19

Abundance point-counter in the Bird Observatory's monthly census

PROEX Grant Committee • 2017–18

Helped fund research projects by 36 graduate students

Science Communication & Outreach

Avistar Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil • 2026

Public talk "Who sings louder? Measuring the volume of birdsong"

Contributions to Citizen Science

eBird/Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Made 872 annotations for Merlin Sound ID • 2022–present
Hotspot editor for Brazil • 2018–present
Submitted 9,282 bird checklists • 2006–present

iNaturalist

Helped identify 3,302 observations • 2016–present
Submitted 3,345 observations • 2001–present

Selected Workshops

Summer School on Mathematical Biology (64 hours) • 2020

ICTP South American Institute for Fundamental Research, Brazil
Instructor: Dr. Roberto Kraenkel

Macroevolution (35 hours) • 2019

Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Instructors: Dr. Liam Revell & Dr. Luke Harmon

Phylogenetic comparative methods (45 hours) • 2017

Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Instructor: Dr. Diogo Provete

Ornithology field course (54 hours) • 2016

Butantan Institute, Brazil

Lead instructor: Luciano Moreira-Lima

Taxonomy & systematics (34 hours) • 2012

Mackenzie University, Brazil

Instructor: Dr. Gustavo Schmidt

Work Experience

Freelance field ornithologist • 2015–26

Bird surveys in the Atlantic and Amazon forests

University of Brasilia/Infraero • 2014

Research assistant in the wildlife management team of Congonhas/São Paulo Airport

Skills

Software

R • R Markdown • Shiny • DeepLabCut • SLEAP • BayesTraits • NetLogo • QGis • Audacity • Raven Pro

Language

Portuguese (mother language) • English (fluent, ILR3/C1 certificate) • Spanish (intermediate, ILR2/B2 certificate) • German (elementary, ILR3/C1 certificate) • Italian (elementary)