

# Illustration at the Cornell Lab

The Bartels Science Illustration Internship program takes flight

Birds have long inspired artists, and the walls of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are graced by the works of Louis Agassiz Fuertes, George M. Sutton, Charley Harper, Roger Tory Peterson, and others. In the last decade, those classic works have been joined by paintings produced here at the Cornell Lab, by artists working in an extraordinarily productive partnership, the Bartels Science Illustration Internship program.

The rotating internships allow illustrators who are just starting their careers to build their skills and portfolios by working on projects that help the Lab achieve its mission. The artists are so skilled, and the projects so focused, that interns' projects

often end up being published. In return, the Cornell Lab gains exquisite illustrations tailor-made for our needs.

We do not teach our interns how to draw birds, but instead offer the opportunity to collaborate with scientists, designers, and writers to create working art. Interns work in the Lab's staff lounge and have access to the many resources at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates, and the Cornell University library system. They can study prepared specimens, make daily contact with world-renowned scientists, and surround themselves daily with our collection of original bird art. Increasingly their work hangs

alongside the masterworks on our walls.

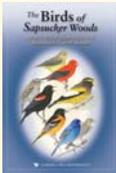
Since 2007, the Cornell Lab has welcomed as many as three Bartels science illustration interns each year. Their art brings to life our educational and outreach materials, videos, and scientific work—if you are a member of a citizen-science project or a regular reader of *BirdScope*, chances are you've seen their work before.

The examples below trace the development of the internship program. To learn more about Bartels Science Illustration Internships, please visit [www.birds.cornell.edu/artinterns](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/artinterns) or contact design director Diane Tessaglia-Hymes at [dianeth@cornell.edu](mailto:dianeth@cornell.edu).



## An intern creates an internship

Art internships didn't exist at the Cornell Lab in 2003, but that didn't stop **Evan Barbour** from writing to us with hopes of arranging one. We decided to give him a try, and asked Evan to illustrate a field guide to the birds of Sapsucker Woods. Evan took this mammoth assignment and ran with it, working with our identification experts to eventually paint more than 100 birds for the book. Without him, our thriving internship program might not exist at all.



## A unique style inspires a donor

In 2007, the unique style of Portuguese artist **Pedro Fernandes** caught the eye of Philip and Susan Bartels. They provided the funding to turn periodic visits from volunteer interns into recurring, paid positions. The Bartels Science Illustration Internship was born. We were amazed at Pedro's knack for detail and skill in painting bird behavior. For his internship project,

he worked in his own unique style of drawing on translucent paper, painting over it with gouache, and then adding detail on the other side in colored pencil. In all, Pedro created 75 drawings for two posters that are included in NestWatch project materials.



## Humming into citizen science

Our citizen-science projects have a great need for illustrations that participants can use for reference. The Bartels internship program allows us to develop beautiful, detailed posters in a variety of styles. Our 2009 intern **Megan Gnekow** used a delicate watercolor style to create a new poster about hummingbirds for Project FeederWatch. She spent many hours studying hummingbird skins, sketching their iridescent gorgets until she had perfected the way each species caught the light. Megan also painted a series of 12 common garden birds for future use as greeting cards.



## A lost bird becomes a cover model

Most of our interns come to us from programs in art or science illustration, but **Evaristo Hernández-Fernández** is a trained biologist and a completely self-taught artist. His careful painting style and familiarity with western Mexico ecosystems made him the ideal person to paint the Imperial Woodpecker for the cover of *The Auk*. Evaristo has taken on many projects during his time here, including illustrations for *BirdScope* and paintings of seven species of manakins for use in a video.



## Introducing Reyn

Reyn Ojiri starts his internship in February 2012. He looks forward to developing his artistic skills as a Bartels intern, so he can help promote the conservation of Hawaiian birds using his art.



## A focus on habitat enhances a government report

By 2011, the Bartels internship was well enough known that we received 82 applications for 2 openings. The intense competition puts us in the lucky position of attracting talented people such as Luxembourg artist **Fritzi Wirth**. As an artist, Fritzi strives to share her fascination with birding and the natural world, and also to promote awareness and concern for endangered species. Fritzi lent her talents to an interagency report about Golden-winged Warbler conservation. Her cover art and interior illustrations, informed by a field visit to Golden-winged Warbler habitat, add life and beauty to an important conservation document.



## Meet the artists

**2003**  
**Evan Barbour**  
Project: *Birds of Sapsucker Woods*  
Currently: Artist and teacher in San Francisco



**2006**  
**Katherine A. Smith**  
Project: Autumn trail guide to Sapsucker Woods  
Currently: Artist and writer in Japan



**2007–2008**  
**Pedro Fernandes**  
Project: Nesting birds posters for NestWatch  
Currently: Illustrator and teacher in Lisbon, Portugal



**2009**  
**Natalie Kay Koscal**  
Project: "Four Keys to Identifying Birds," *BirdScope* Spring 2009  
Currently: Medical illustration student at Johns Hopkins University



**2009**  
**Megan Gnekow**  
Project: Hummingbirds poster for Project FeederWatch  
Currently: Freelance illustrator in San Francisco



**2009**  
**Carly Hodes**  
Project: "Energy Matters," *BirdScope* Autumn 2009  
Currently: Communications specialist at Cornell University



**2009**  
**Sabine Friermuth**  
Project: Brochure and flyer for Celebrate Urban Birds  
Currently: Graphic designer in Zurich, Switzerland



**2010–2012**  
**Evaristo Hernández-Fernández**  
Project: Cover of *Auk* Autumn 2011; portraits of many species  
Currently: Artist-in-residence at the Cornell Lab



**2010**  
**Laura Hines**  
Project: Habitat game for BirdSleuth  
Currently: Freelance illustrator in San Francisco



**2010–2011**  
**Jane Kim**  
Project: "This Land Is Their Land," *BirdScope* Summer 2011; illustrations for *Handbook of Bird Biology*  
Currently: Freelance illustrator in California



**2011–2012**  
**Ann-Kathrin ("Fritzi") Wirth**  
Project: Art and illustrations for *Golden-winged Warbler* Status Assessment and Conservation Action Plan  
Currently: Bartels intern at the Cornell Lab

