

Biological Sciences e-Notes

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Members of the **Gómez-Bahamón** and **Moore Labs** recently visited the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago to advance collaborative research using the museum's ornithology collections.

Valentina Gómez-Bahamón, along with undergraduates **Nathan Williams** and **Kiersten Link**, studied skeletal morphology in the Tyrant flycatcher family (*Tyrannidae*) (Fig. 1), while graduate student **Martín Pérez** examined plumage color and morphology in *Progne* swallows. Their work is part of an ongoing collaboration with curators **John Bates** and graduate student **Josephine Robertson**.



The team also participated in a Purple martin nest box survey and banding effort along the shores of Lake Michigan, led by FMNH Research Assistant **Lauren Nassef** (Fig. 2). The visit provided valuable opportunities to explore the museum's impressive bird collection, including striking specimens like the Raggiana bird-of-paradise (Fig. 3).

Jay Margolis, a graduate student in the Moore Lab, joined the trip to study ultraviolet reflectance in owls. Their project focuses on the underwing coverts to investigate the presence of UV signals and potential sex differences in plumage (Fig. 4).



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4