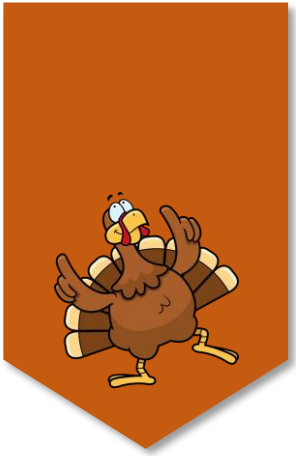

# News fEEB

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Monthly Newsletter

November 2019 · Volume 1 · Issue 2 Author: Michael W.D. McCloy

## Monthly Discussion

*In what ways can we, both as individuals and an EEB community, better communicate our research outside of academic settings?*

***Want to join the discussion?***

***Respond to the corresponding email***

## Announcements

***Seminar Speakers***

*Nov. 4: **Barnabus Daru**, Putting the biogeography of vascular plants on the global map*

*Nov. 11: **Paco Moore**, title TBA*

*Nov. 25: **April Wright**, title TBA*

*Entomological Society of America conference: Nov. 17-20, St. Louis, MO*

***Thanksgiving Day**: November 28*

## EEB Spotlight

***Rachel Busselman** is a second year PhD student in Dr. Sarah Hamer's disease ecology lab in the Veterinary Integrative Biosciences department. She researches vector-host-parasite interactions in the Chagas disease system. This disease is caused by a protozoan parasite, vectored by kissing bugs, and causes cardiac symptoms in humans and other mammals. Rachel works with domestic dogs and wildlife throughout Texas to better characterize the diverse spectrum of disease outcomes in infected hosts as they relate to the genetic strains of the parasite. Additionally, she is building mathematical models to better elucidate the important hosts for the parasite and vector, as well as to understand the role of community composition in persistence of the pathogen in the environment.*

***You or a colleague accomplish something? Let us know by tweeting #TAMUEEB***

ECOLOGY and EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

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# Laboratory Highlight

## Grace Lab

## Dr. Jacquelyn K. Grace

*Dr. Jacquelyn Grace is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences and researches how birds respond to stressors in their environment. This includes physiological responses, behavioral responses, and the long-term effects of these on survival and reproduction. Her field systems include passerines in the U.S. and France, and seabirds in the Pacific and Atlantic. Her work has implications for animal health, welfare, and conservation, and in some cases human health.*

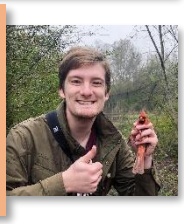
*Viridiana Martinez is a third-year Ph.D. student whose dissertation research focuses on avian stress hormones and parasite abundance along an elevational gradient in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. She is also conducting research on avian blood parasites as part of a collaborative project with the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences.*

*Michael McCloy is a second-year Ph.D. student studying songbird community dynamics and disturbance ecology. His research integrates citizen science data with field experiments to investigate the short- and long-term effects that hurricanes have on bird communities. This work could have implications for conservation, community ecology, and climate science as there is a growing need to understand the response of organisms in a changing landscape.*

*Allison Guggenheimer is an M.S. student whose work focuses on body condition of migratory waterfowl in relation to land management, habitat, and population demographics. Her work can inform scientists, policy makers, and land managers of best practices to support sustainable wildlife populations in balance with anthropogenic activities. Allison successfully defended her thesis in July and will be graduating in December, 2019.*

*Mariel Ortega is a Junior undergrad who is investigating the fitness implications of birdwatching techniques used to entice birds into the open. She completed two internships this summer. The first was at the Harvard Lab of Ornithology where she worked with museum specimens. She was then part of an expedition to Australia with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, recording bird songs for the Macaulay Library.*

*Keith Andringa is a Junior undergraduate student who is currently performing stable isotope analyses to identify dietary shifts in wintering waterfowl. He is also conducting a research project on the breeding biology of Swainson's warblers (Limnothlypis swainsonii) in the Brazos River Valley. This project may have local and direct conservation implications and give us additional insights into Swainson's warbler habitat use and movements during the breeding season.*



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