



News fEEB

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Monthly Newsletter

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Monthly Discussion

How can we, as TAMU students, faculty, and staff, communicate conservation concerns effectively to the public, particularly for migratory species that range across borders?

Want to join the discussion?

Respond to the corresponding email.

Announcements

Grad Student Talks

Dec. 2: **Mackenzie Kjeldgaard**, *A tale of two (or more) formulas: Inconsistent trophic position estimates from stable isotope data.*

Dec. 2: **Gaston Jofre**, *Patterns of genomic introgression across clinal hybrid zones.*

DARWIN DAY (Feb. 14th) committee volunteers needed! Contact Nick Jacobsen, if interested.

EEB Spotlight

***Rachael Glazner** is a fifth year Ph.D. student in Dr. Anna Armitage's Coastal and Wetlands Ecology lab at Galveston. Rachael, specifically, is interested in how shifts in vegetation type between marsh and mangroves may affect predator-prey interactions along the Gulf Coast. Her work spans across multiple trophic levels and includes wading bird foraging and habitat selection, as well as predation rates of blue crabs. However, her most recent work, the subject of one of her dissertation chapters, focuses on the survival rates of the marsh periwinkle in marsh and mangrove environments and the relative refuge value of these vegetation types. Her work has important implications for food web dynamics, especially in our changing world.*

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



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Laboratory Highlight

Yorzinski Lab

Dr. Jessica Yorzinski

Dr. Jessica Yorzinski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences. Her research focuses on investigating animal behavior, with an emphasis on sensory ecology, animal communication, and the form and function of diverse signals. Her most recent work focuses on blinking behavior in Great-tailed Grackles and visual attention in peafowl.

Melanie Florkowski is a second-year Ph.D. student whose current research is focused on the relationship between birds and their gut-associated microbes. She is interested in how microbes affect behavior mediated through the immune and endocrine systems. She has also investigated the effects of dopamine on avian interspecific aggression.



Josh Lerner is a first-year Ph.D. student whose research focuses on the interaction between visual and behavioral ecology in birds. He is interested in studying the evolution of visual systems and how the configuration of the visual system influences behaviors like foraging, predator avoidance, mate choice, and social interactions. This work has implications for understanding how birds adapt to different habitats, and how vision has influenced the evolution of different behavioral strategies.

Jocelyn Hunyadi is a first-year Ph.D. student interested in studying predator-prey interactions and the role of sensory systems in mediating these interactions, as well as group formation and collective behavior in avian systems. Currently, she's working on a project with senior undergraduate Kasey Burrison on the impact of rain on flight in Great-tailed Grackles.



"It's beginning to look a lot like migration..."



Left: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – heading to Central America soon!

Middle: Sandhill Crane – recently arrived!

Right: Great-tailed Grackles – local numbers being reinforced by migrants!



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