



GOODBYE SUMMER 2010

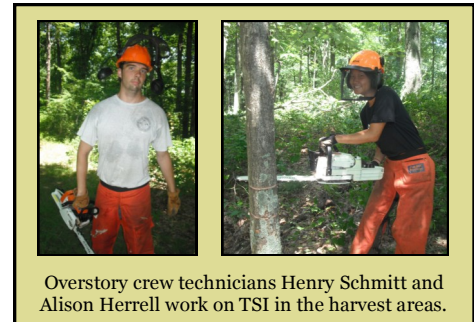
Another field season has come to a close. It has been a brutally hot summer with several weeks above 90°, high humidity and very little rain. And those are less than pleasant conditions for all the technicians spending their days out in the field. Nevertheless, everyone persevered and continued to collect high quality data for HEE.

This was another full summer with a broad range of sampling activities: aural bird surveys, nighttime owl surveys, Cerulean Warbler surveys, Eastern box turtle and timber rattlesnake tracking, small mammal trapping, bat mist-netting, beetle collections, moth collections, overstory vegetation sampling, understory vegetation sampling, and stump exclosure installation.

On behalf of all the researchers, thank you to the many students who have worked so hard collecting all of this data. And a huge thank you again to the Division of Forestry for giving 18 HEE workers a wonderful place to spend the summer—the Girl Scout Camp.



Ball State grad student Jennifer Wagner at the HEE sign in Morgan-Monroe.



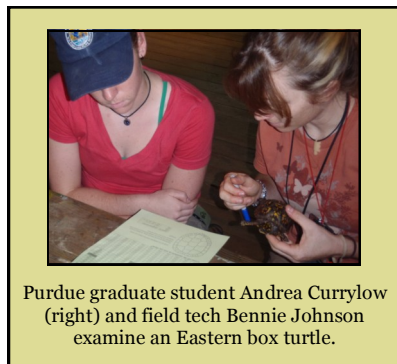
Overstory crew technicians Henry Schmitt and Alison Herrell work on TSI in the harvest areas.



The HEE bat crew: (from left to right) ISU graduate student Megan Caylor with field techs Leah Heady and Brittany Hrgich.



The HEE bird crew during training week: (from left to right) Jarad McLeland, Jeff Riegel, Jessica Rodkey, Rita Blythe, Amanda Simmons, and Stephen Friesen.



Purdue graduate student Andrea Currylow (right) and field tech Bennie Johnson examine an Eastern box turtle.

Other field crew members not pictured above: Michelle Baragona, Matt Cook, Stephen Ritchie, Kile Westerman, Lindsay Keener-Eck, Mike Wildnauer, Tim Jedele, Kevin Creely, Diana Hackenburg, Chris Zellers, Carmen Blubaugh, Ken Kellner, Aimee Bjornstad, Ryan Dibala, and Edsel Koscielniak.

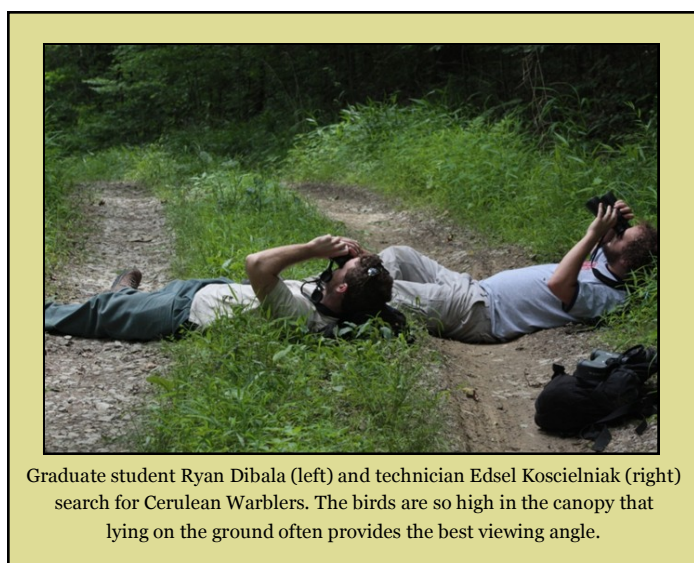
Species Highlight: Cerulean Warbler

(information provided by Dr. Kamal Islam, Ball State University)

The Cerulean Warbler is one of many forest-nesting Neotropical migrants of conservation concern with long-term population declines documented on breeding grounds. Although once considered a common migrant and summer resident in Indiana, the Cerulean Warbler is now listed as a “species of special concern” in the state. This designation does not offer specific added protection, but does indicate an urgent need to monitor populations closely and for research to support the management and conservation of this declining species.

Dr. Kamal Islam and several graduate students at Ball State University are leading the Cerulean Warbler research efforts for the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment. Three graduate students have already completed their work on the project (Lila Young, Kyle Kaminski and Margaret MacNeil). Two new graduate students—Ryan Dibala and Jennifer Wagner— began their first field season this summer.

Ryan Dibala’s project will examine the response of Cerulean Warblers to silvicultural treatments in Southern Indiana. The objectives of his study are to monitor relative abundance of Cerulean Warblers in each management unit post-harvest, measure canopy gaps in Cerulean Warbler territories, and measure vegetation at Cerulean Warbler territories and random sites.



Jennifer Wagner’s project will focus on the breeding biology of Cerulean Warblers in Southern Indiana. The objectives of her study are to compare reproductive success of Cerulean Warblers in each management unit and measure Cerulean Warbler nest site characteristics.

Bird surveys are done during May followed by territory mapping in June. Nest monitoring occurs from May to mid-July. Vegetation and canopy gap measurements are completed during July and early August.

2010 is the fourth consecutive year of data collection on the Cerulean Warbler project.

Executive Committee Update

- The HEE Executive Committee met on June 24th in Indianapolis and again on August 17th at Purdue. Planning has begun for the Annual Fall Researcher Meeting. The committee is also exploring ideas for publishing a document of pre-treatment results.

HEE Executive Committee Members:

John Seifert, IN DNR - DoF, Co-Chair

Rob Swihart, Purdue FNR, Co-Chair

Scott Haulton, IN DNR - DoF

Rebecca Kalb, Purdue FNR

Duane McCoy, IN DNR - DoF

Mike Saunders, Purdue FNR

Check us out on the web!

www.HEEForestStudy.org

Do you have pictures from any HEE related event or activity?

If so, you can submit them to the HEE Project Coordinator for archiving. Please include any information about the pictures.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR HEE?

- Rattlesnake and box turtle tracking continues
- Understory vegetation sampling continues
- Lepidoptera (moth) collections continue
- Tallying of harvested trees
- Finishing TSI in the harvest areas
- Fall salamander sampling begins
- Oak mast collections begin

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please send your news, findings, tid-bits, publications, funding opportunities, and committee reports to Rebecca at rkalb@purdue.edu to be included in "The HEE Update."

"The HEE Update" is distributed to anyone interested in receiving quarterly updates on the HEE Project—you need not be actively involved in the project. If you know of someone that would like periodic updates on HEE, we can add them to the list!

Previous issues of "The HEE Update" are available on our website:
HEEForestStudy.org.



SAVE THE DATE

Plans for the Annual Fall Researcher Meeting have begun. Specific details on this two-day meeting will be sent out soon.

Please mark this date on your calendar:

November 15-16, 2010

West Lafayette, Indiana