



THE HEE UPDATE

<http://HEEForestStudy.org>

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The HEE and COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted everyone in some way this year, and the HEE was no exception. Through the hard work of everyone involved, we were able to continue most of our summer research while doing our utmost to protect the graduate students, technicians and researchers as they did their work.

Researchers whose work was not halted by COVID-19 followed special COVID-19 procedures and adjusted their protocols accordingly to allow for social distancing and to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission (*see an example of the BSU Cerulean Warbler crew below*).

Field and safety protocols weren't the only things to change at the HEE this summer. Our normal summer outreach took on a completely different look in an attempt to keep everyone safe. To make up for no in-person field tours or events, we have tried several ways to engage with the public not only through Facebook Live events, but also through our new Twitter feed where our Field Coordinator, Danielle Williams, and Project Coordinator, Charlotte Owings, have provided updates on the research taking place as well as videos informing people about what the HEE is about. Follow us on Twitter to keep updated!

Things may look different this year, but the work continues!



The HEE Cerulean Warbler field research crew social distancing at the Bridgehouse (back row - former graduate students Alexander Sharp & Brandon Connare; middle row - PI Kamal Islam & field technician Abigail Valine; front row- current graduate students Lara Jones & Bethany Darby).

Follow us on Twitter!

You can find us on Twitter under Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (@HardwoodEcosys1). <https://twitter.com/HardwoodEcosys1>

Photos from the Field Season



Photo captions go clockwise from top-left: A spotted salamander encountered during HEE spring salamander surveys; a showy orchid standing out amongst the leaf litter in the spring; a ring-necked snake found underneath a salamander coverboard; a whip-poor-will chick; a decaying tulip poplar leaf next to an imperial moth; and an eastern box turtle attempting not to be noticed; (photo credits: Danielle Williams)

Congratulations Tim, Brandon, and Alex!

TIM DIVOLL

Tim Divoll successfully defended his dissertation “Foraging ecology of *Myotis sodalis* and *M. septentrionalis* in human-altered landscapes “ in December of 2019. Tim was advised by HEE Researcher Dr. Joy O’Keefe at Indiana State University. Tim is now a Data Scientist with SWCA Environmental Consultants.

ALEXANDER SHARP

Alex Sharp successfully defended his Master’s thesis entitled “Will the intrusion of an avian nest predator elicit a change in the behavior of a canopy-nesting passerine?” in May 2020. Alex was advised by HEE Researcher Dr. Kamal Islam. He is now starting his Ph.D. at Florida Atlantic University modeling movement patterns of Little Blue Herons using radio-telemetry.

BRANDON CONNARE

Brandon Connare successfully defended his Master’s thesis entitled “Advancing understanding of Cerulean Warbler space use through the use of radio telemetry, and failure to advance migratory phenology in response to climate change may pose a significant threat to the Cerulean Warbler” in May 2020. Brandon was advised by HEE Researcher Dr. Kamal Islam and will soon be starting a position as a wildlife consultant in New York.

Join Us on Facebook Live for Ask the Expert Series

This summer, extension specialists with the Forestry and Natural Resources Department at Purdue University started an “Ask the Expert” series on Facebook Live. This series features a different topic each week and starts with a short presentation followed by a question and answer session. Researchers and staff working with the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment are now participating in this series the third or fourth Thursday of each month. Our first presentation was about the HEE in general and “aired” on June 25th, 2020. Our next session will feature salamander and bird research on July 30th.

You can find the recorded videos [here](#) or join us live [here](#)!

New HEE Publications

Delancey, C., Islam, K., Kramer, G., MacDonald, G., Sharp, A., and B. Connare. 2020. Geolocators reveal migration routes, stopover sites, and nonbreeding dispersion in a population of Cerulean Warblers, *Animal Migration*, 7(1):19-26. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/ami-2020-0003>

Ruhl, P.J., Kellner, K. F., and J.B. Dunning. 2020. Ecological factors explain habitat associations of mature-forest songbirds in regenerating forest clearcuts. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* doi: <https://doi.org/10.1676/19-49>

New HEE Graduate Students

Lara Jones

Lara Jones is an incoming Master's student working in Dr. Kamal Islam's Cerulean Warbler lab at Ball State University. She is originally an East Coaster, and graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in Biology before spending two years hopping around the U.S. working on various avian ecology projects as a technician. For her M.S. project, Lara is interested in studying the effects of winter habitat quality on Cerulean warbler reproductive success, as well as population dispersal patterns.



Bethany Darby

Bethany Darby is a new Master's student in Dr. Kamal Islam's lab at Ball State University. She will be studying the breeding ecology of Cerulean Warblers in Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe State Forests. Bethany is from Ocean County, New Jersey and completed her undergraduate education at Drexel University with a degree in Biology and a concentration in Ecology and Evolution. Upon graduating, she has worked with songbirds, shorebirds, and seabirds on various research projects throughout the eastern United States and Canada. In her free time, she enjoys birding, hiking, reading, and live music.



Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment

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