



Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment

HEE Update

Spring and Summer 2022

Cerulean Warbler work highlighted in Nature Conservancy Video



HEE Researcher Dr. Kamal Islam from Ball State University was recently featured in a new video by The Nature Conservancy in Indiana as part of their [Forestry for the Birds Project](#). In the video, Dr. Islam talks about his work with Cerulean Warblers, his findings from the HEE, and the importance of forest management to help this state-endangered species. You can watch the video by clicking [here](#)

Congratulations HEE Graduates!



Lizz Beilke

Lizz Beilke successfully defended her PhD dissertation this past spring. Lizz was a graduate student of Dr. Joy O’Keefe and received her doctoral degree from Indiana State University. Her dissertation is entitled [“The Trophic Ecology of Insectivorous Bats in the Eastern United States and their Ecological Impact to Forests”](#).

Congratulations Dr. Beilke!



Lara Jones

Lara Jones obtained her Master’s degree this spring from Ball State University. Lara was advised by Dr. Kamal Islam and studied Cerulean Warblers on the HEE. Her thesis is entitled *“Long-distance dispersal patterns and carry-over effects in the Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) in southern Indiana”*.

Congratulations Lara!



Bethany Darby

Bethany Darby successfully defended her Master’s thesis this summer. Bethany obtained her degree from Ball State University and was advised by Dr. Kamal Islam while she studied Cerulean Warblers on the HEE. Her thesis is entitled *“Spatial distribution of Cerulean Warbler nests and landscape-level nest associations, and Cerulean Warbler response to silvicultural treatments”*.

Congratulations Bethany!

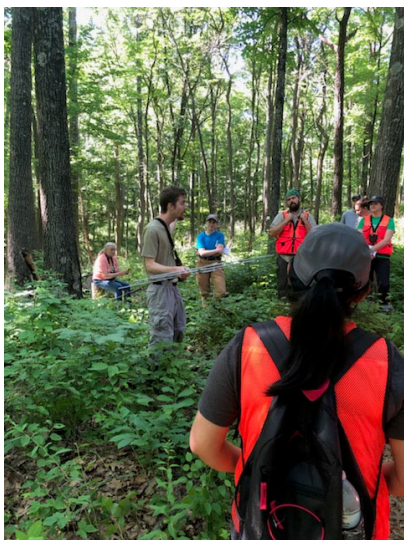
New HEE and HEE-Related Publications

Ochs, A. E., Saunders, M. R., & R.K. Swihart. 2022. Response of terrestrial salamanders to the decade following timber harvest in hardwood forests. [*Forest Ecology and Management*, 511, 120159.](#)

Connare, B. and K. Islam. 2022. Failure to advance migratory phenology in response to climate change may pose a significant threat to a declining Nearctic-Neotropical songbird. *International Journal of Biometeorology*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-022-02239-9>.

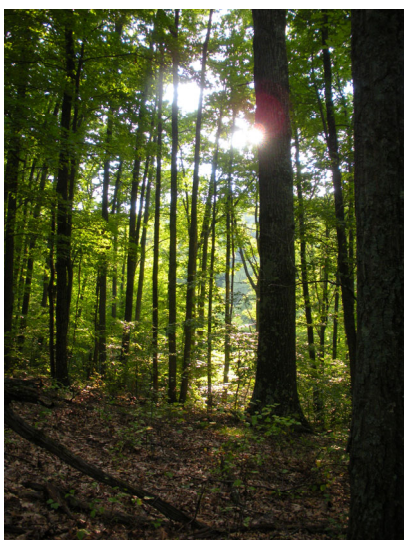
Sharp, A. R., Connare, B. M., and Islam, K. 2021. Novel nest tree selection by a deciduous forest New World warbler. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 133(4):640-645. doi.org/10.1676/20-0016

HEE Outreach



The Natural Resources Teacher's Institute

This summer we once again had the opportunity to talk with participants from the Indiana Natural Resources Teachers' Institute (NRTI). NRTI is coordinated by Project Learning Tree, Purdue FNR Extension, and the Indiana DNR. As part of the program, participants learn about forest ecology and management and get tools and skills for teaching their students about forestry in Indiana! For the HEE portion of the NRTI, the group of educators had the opportunity to hear from HEE staff, several graduate students, and technicians about a number of the ongoing studies at the HEE!



Let the Sunshine IN

A new initiative called Let the Sunshine IN (Indiana) has received funding by a USDA Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant. The initiative is led by ABC birds with partners across Indiana. The collaborative group will work to maintain and restore our oak-hickory ecosystem in southern Indiana through education, outreach, and implementation. The HEE looks forward to being involved in this initiative by helping share findings from our various projects. You can read more about this initiative through the [Hoosier National Forest Service News Release](#) and an [ABC Birds article](#).

Welcome New Graduate Students!



Brit Nahorney

Brit Nahorney is a new master's student in Dr. Kamal Islam's lab at Ball State University and is in her second year working on the Cerulean Warbler Project. Brit is interested in studying the diet composition and prey selection of adult Cerulean Warblers. As an undergraduate, Brit studied environmental biology and art at Pacific University. She started off banding raptors and for the past eight years she has worked with anything from seabirds, songbirds, marsh birds, and honeycreepers to New England cottontails, flying squirrels, and game species at Fish and Wildlife hunting stations. When she's not in the field, Brit enjoys reading science fiction, summiting mountain peaks, and watching hockey.



Julian Grudens

Julian is an incoming master's student in Dr. Islam's lab at Ball State University studying Cerulean Warblers at the HEE for his thesis. With a B.S. in wildlife ecology and conservation from The University of Florida and experience working on avian ecology research projects across North America, Julian is excited to help continue the long-term research program here and tackle some new questions. Migratory bird conservation is a central area of interest for Julian, who has worked as a bander and migration counter at bird observatories such as Long Point, Cape May, and Hawk Ridge in recent years. Whenever possible, Julian enjoys birding, fishing, and making good use of local mountain bike trails. With Indiana being a new state, he is looking forward to seeing and learning much more during his studies.

Photos from the Field Season





Photo captions go clockwise from top-left: An ovenbird nest (*Toudora Galuska*); an eastern box turtle (*Toudora Galuska*); a timber rattlesnake blending in (*Anne Talbot*); a rosy maple moth (*Toudora Galuska*); a northern slimy salamander (*Anne Talbot*); an Acadian flycatcher feeding its babies (*Julian Grudens*); an eastern tiger swallowtail (*Anne Talbot*) and a Cerulean Warbler fledgling that was banded by the BSU CERW crew (*Brit Nahorney*) all encountered during the summer field season on the HEE!

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