

Biological Sciences Seminar
Thursday, January 19th SCEN 604, 4:00pm
Refreshments in SCEN 502 at 3:30pm

Dr. Sarah DuRant

Incubation temperature-induced phenotypes in birds and its implications for avian ecology, evolution, and conservation.



Abstract:

Incubation is a vital component of reproduction and parental care in birds. Most birds physically incubate their eggs to control nest temperatures; however, variation in temperature that influences embryonic development still occurs among nests within a population. Although it is widely recognized that temperature is important for hatching success, little is known about how variation in incubation temperature influences the post-hatching phenotypes of avian offspring. My research indicates incubation temperature has substantial effects on hatchling phenotypic traits important for future development, survival, and reproduction. Such observations suggest that incubation temperature, and presumably parental incubation behavior, is an important but underappreciated parental effect in birds and may represent a selective force instrumental in shaping avian reproductive ecology and life-history traits.