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RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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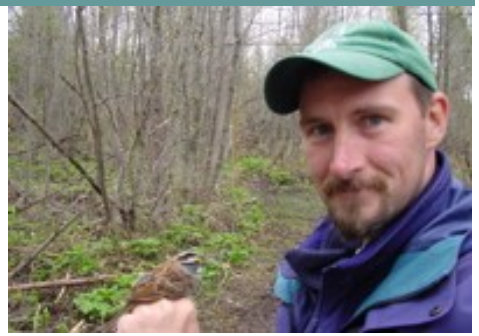

Friday

Nov. 13. 2009

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 152

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 3:20 PM

Reproductive Ecology in Songbirds: Does the Early Bird Get the Worm?

In the 1950s and 1960s David Lack synthesized the knowledge of reproductive ecology of songbirds, primarily focusing on patterns that had been observed in long-term studies of titmice from England and the Netherlands. His key observations were that females who began laying earlier produced larger clutches, in years when the mean laying date of a population was earlier clutches were larger, mean clutch sizes increase with latitude, and females are capable of raising more offspring than they naturally produce. In my work on white-throated sparrows I am testing Lack's observations in white-throated sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) with an eye to addressing the factors that influence clutch initiation date and clutch size for females. As a variation on that theme, I have examined whether females are stimulated to lay earlier or larger clutches by the dawn singing of their partners. In the long-term I am hoping to determine how they may be affected by climate change.

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