

FRIDAY

Jan. 19, 2007

3:30 - 4:30 pm

LECTURE
THEATRE

7-158

LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT 3:20 PM

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Habitat Quality, Matrix Concepts & Reproductive Behaviour in Chickadees

Forest harvesting can fragment the landscapes for forest-dependent species, creating habitat patches separated by expanses of less-hospitable habitat (called “the matrix”). Such isolation can affect the potential for dispersal among forest patches, which can affect population dynamics of forest species. Recently, reforestation practices have been proposed to help mitigate these effects by creating habitat matrices that facilitate inter-patch dispersal, or even serve as alternate breeding habitat for generalist species. However, the mere utilization of managed landscapes by forest birds may not necessarily ensure that habitats remain of adequate quality to sustain populations. I will discuss habitat quality concepts in light of our own research on breeding and behaviour of black-capped chickadees habitats of different ages, and parallel research on Eurasian tit species, to assess proposed ideas in matrix-habitat management.