

CFAES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SEMINAR SERIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Exploring an Understudied Symbiotic Relationship: Birds and their Feather Mites

Dr. Than Boves

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Director of Graduate Program in Biology
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Abstract: Ectosymbiotic arthropods of birds have evolved close, persistent associations with avian hosts and include insects such as lice, and arachnids such as ticks and mites. The functional roles of these symbionts run the gamut from mutualistic to commensal to parasitic and they have co-evolved with their hosts in a variety of ways. Although these ectosymbionts are ubiquitous on birds, there are still many ecological and evolutionary knowledge gaps regarding how they impact their hosts, and conversely, how birds affect their ectosymbiotic partners, over space and time. Over the past 10 years, my lab has studied how feather mites interact with birds at many levels, from influencing behavior of individuals, to impacting population dynamics, to affecting the evolutionary trajectories of species. I will present a broad swath of this research at the seminar.

I simply call myself an ornithologist but my lab works on topics spanning from feather mite genomics to forest management (and much in between). I received a BS in Biology from University of Illinois, a MS in Raptor Biology from Boise State University, a PhD in Wildlife Ecology from University of Tennessee, and completed a Post-doc at the University of Illinois. I have also taught high school biology, worked for Abbot Labs, conducted water testing at landfills, and was a bellman and valet at Embassy Suites Hotel on State Street in Chicago. I have been at Arkansas State University for 10 years now, and my lab's study species include various New World warblers (esp. Cerulean and Prothonotary), Loggerhead Shrikes, various kingbirds, American Kestrels, shorebirds, and Chuck's-Will's Widows.

Location: 164 Howlett Hall

Join via Zoom: <https://osu.zoom.us/j/98889406098?pwd=UEdZQkhPTzRsTzBrTWdSSTM3cG5ZZz09>

Meeting ID: 988 8940 6098

Password: 506773

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