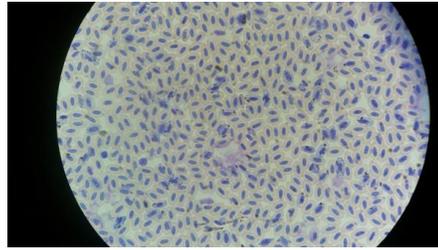




Hitchhiker's Guide to Migration: chronicles of avian malaria in migrating sparrows



Dr. Tosha Kelly, Friday, November 13, 2020

3:00 – 4:00 PM, Zoom Virtual meeting room

Presentation: In the midst of a global pandemic, the value of being able to anticipate the spread of disease is at its peak. The extent that birds contribute to the spread of disease depends inherently upon the physical and behavioural responses of birds to infection. Seasonal migration exposes animals to a variety of habitats and parasites and, if infected migratory birds migrate successfully, there is great potential for birds to transport infectious diseases long distances. I used a variety of interdisciplinary techniques to investigate the relationship between migratory behaviour, physiology, and avian malaria infection. I will discuss the observed relationship between migration distance and malaria infection as well as two *Plasmodium* inoculation experiments using song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and white-throated sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). The field and lab-based experiments highlight important consequences of mere malaria exposure on behaviour and body condition. Models of disease spread depend on knowing whether infection affects migratory behaviour, making studies such as these crucial to understanding future host/pathogen dynamics in our changing climate.

About the speaker:

- Grew up in Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada
- Undergrad at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada
- Graduate studies at The University of Western Ontario, Canada
MSc & PhD with Drs. Beth & Scott MacDougall-Shackleton
- Currently a postdoctoral fellow at Louisiana State University
Mentored by Dr. Christine Lattin
Life Science Research Foundation Awardee – at LSU until 2023, GO TIGERS!



Seminar information: This seminar will be held virtually via Zoom. To log into the seminar please use the following web link:

<https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/93828128141?pwd=K2NuaEExTGpLVWwM0N2lvWnpETHMyQT09>

Passcode: 542050