

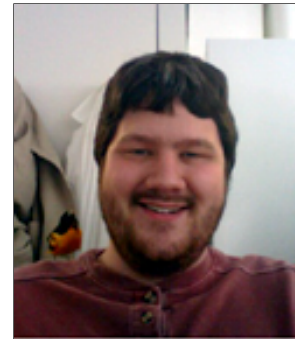
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Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior,
College of Biological Sciences,
2008

Mentor: Dr. Keith Barker and Dr.
Scott Lanyon; Ecology, Evolution,
and Behavior

Phylogeography of Icterus cayanensis: An Exploration of Tropical Diversity

The tropical region of the Americas is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the world. *Icterus cayanensis*, or Epaulette Oriole, is a member of the Blackbird family that ranges across much of this environment. My research focuses on elucidating the evolutionary relationships between different populations of this species. We can infer this history through the comparison of DNA sequences. Thus, as part of my research, I have extracted and sequenced portions of the genome from individuals collected across South America. A detailed analysis at the population level of a species allows us to zoom in on the micro-evolutionary processes that drive speciation. Examining these relationships in a geographic context gives us insight into the mechanisms and patterns of speciation that has led to the diversity we see today.



Poster Number: Session: