

Climate Change and the Future of Montane Birds in the Northeast

Presented by UCALL and the Kelly Adirondack Center

April 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Reamer Auditorium

Stuck between a rock and a hard place - climate change is rapidly altering our montane forests across the globe and here in the northeastern U.S. In our mountains, climate change is occurring at a rate 2-5X faster than at lower elevations, and by the end of this century our forests will not look or sound the same. Global modeling efforts predict substantial turnover in our spruce-fir community composition, with the upslope movement of lower elevation species and the poleward shifts of our current high elevation species. Dr. Jason Hill, a quantitative ecologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, will discuss how climate change is forcing our northeastern flora and fauna to rapidly adapt, with a special focus on the responses of montane bird populations.

Speaker: Jason Hill. As a kid from Iowa, Jason (he/him) grew up enamored with how the natural world managed to exist in a heavily modified agricultural landscape. A lifelong naturalist, Jason followed graduation from the University of Montana (BS, Wildlife Biology) with a series of wildlife-based adventures that found him monitoring sea otters in California, tracking endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers in Florida, researching House Wrens at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica, and many others. On Maui, his crew was tasked with capturing the three remaining po'ouli: a Hawaiian honeycreeper that has now been declared extinct. His biocentric wonder (and his partner) led him to New England, where he joined the the Vermont Center for Ecostudies as a quantitative ecologist and conservation biologist in January 2015.

At the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Jason wears many hats. He primarily investigates avian and invertebrate ecology within the montane spruce-fir community, coordinates and directs the community science project Mountain Birdwatch, studies the effects of powerline management practices on bumble bees and milkweed specialists, coordinates the Suds & Science discussion series and cranks out R and BUGS code on demand for his colleagues.

In his free time, Jason enjoys macro photography of insects, paddling, hiking, woodworking, and observing nature (follow along with my adventures on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org); see my recent observations below). You can often find him hitting the trails with his sons, Heron and Lynx, and his permanent belay partner, Katie. And he is still a kid, at heart.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.