

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: Grassland passerines are sensitive to the cumulative effects of oil and gas development in southern Alberta.

Speaker: Jody Daniel-Simon, recently completed PhD in Ecology and Environmental Biology at the University of Waterloo

Presentation Summary:

By comparing impacts of co-occurring anthropogenic features, we can: 1) improve regional planning and 2) identify the mechanisms that explain the negative impacts of development on wildlife. Because of the vast abundance of anthropogenic features in the Northern Great Plains, their combined negative impacts on songbird habitat use (e.g., abundance) and productivity (e.g., nesting success and clutch size) could exacerbate the decline of songbird populations. Based on four years data, I will discuss our findings on the cumulative effects of energy-related infrastructure (oil wells, shallow gas wells, and roads) on the habitat use and productivity of Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), and Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*).

About Dr. Daniel-Simon:

I am interested in how changes in environmental conditions, whether driven by climate or land use activities, affect biological communities. I apply tools and concepts from landscape ecology, community ecology and geography to investigate how plants, birds and aquatic macroinvertebrates are likely affected by climate and land use. I recently completed my PhD in Ecology and Environmental Biology at the University of Waterloo in [Dr. Rebecca Rooney's lab](#). In 2015, I completed a Masters in Natural Resources Management at the University of Manitoba in [Dr. Nicola Koper's lab](#).

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