

Kara Loeb Belinsky  
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**Present Position:**

September 2001 – May 2008 (expected)  
**University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
PHD candidate (ABD), Program in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
Advisors: Dr. Bruce Byers and Dr. Jeffery Podos  
Committee Members: Dr. Elizabeth Jakob and Dr. Paige Warren

**Research Interests:**

Behavioral ecology, conservation of songbirds, and evolution of communication and mate choice. Current emphasis on sexual selection of multimodal traits, particularly plumage color and song in *Dendroica* warblers.

**Undergraduate Education:**

September 1994 – May 1998  
**Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY**  
Bachelor of Arts in Biology, graduated Cum Laude, with honor in biology.  
Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Corey Freeman-Gallant

**Recent Academic Positions:**

**Biology 550, Instructor, University of Massachusetts**

Sole instructor for “**Animal Behavior**” as a sabbatical replacement for Dr. Jeffery Podos (40 students). Upper level course for biology majors surveying topics including proximate mechanisms, ethology/behaviorism, foraging/defense, migration, mate choice, parental care, sociality, and human evolution/behavior.

**Biology 544, Laboratory Instructor, University of Massachusetts**

Laboratory instructor for “**Ornithology**,” an upper-level course for biology majors (40 students). Laboratories focus on taxonomic survey of birds of the world, and identification of local species by sight and sound, as well as supporting student-designed independent field research projects.

**Biology 105 Honors, Instructor, University of Massachusetts**

Sole instructor for “**Biology of Social Issues**,” honors course (20 students) for non-major honors students. Topics include: infectious and genetic diseases, antibiotic resistance and evolution, environmental degradation, genetic engineering, and human race and gender differences.

**Entomology 126, Co-Instructor, University of Massachusetts**

Co-instructor for half of a large lecture course (200 students): “**Insects and Society**,” for non-science majors focusing on the evolution, ecology and diversity of insects. Introducing non-majors to scientific thought and experimental design.

**Awards, Grants and Fellowships:**

May 2007 **American Ornithologist's Union Student Travel Grant**  
“Multi-modal Signaling in a Complex System: Color and Song in Chestnut-sided Warblers” \$450

May 2007 **American Ornithologist's Union Student Research Award**  
“Color and Song in Chestnut-sided Warblers: Redundant Signals or Multiple Messages?” \$1100

March 2007 **Alexander Wilson Prize** (best graduate student oral presentation)  
“Are Color and Song Redundant Signals of Male Quality in Chestnut-sided Warblers?” Wilson Ornithological Conference, Boston, MA. \$250

May 2006 **American Ornithologist's Union Student Travel Grant**  
“Color and Song in Chestnut-sided Warblers: Redundant Signals or Multiple Messages?” \$400

April 2006 **Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant**  
“Color and Song in Chestnut-sided Warblers: Redundant Signals or Multiple Messages?” \$1000

June 2002 – June 2004 **NSF GK12 STEM Connections Fellowship**  
Working with Springfield area science teachers (grades k-8) to develop and implement inquiry-based science curricula in their classrooms.  
\$27,000 (2003-2004), \$21, 000 (2002-2003)

**Memberships in Professional Societies:** American Ornithologist’s Union, Animal Behavior Society, Wilson Ornithological Society

**Presentations:**

March 23, 2007 “**Are Color and Song Redundant Signals of Male Quality in Chestnut-sided Warblers?**” K Belinsky. Wilson Ornithological Conference, Boston, MA

October 4, 2006 “**Color and Song in Chestnut-sided Warblers: Redundant Signals or Multiple Messages?**” K Belinsky. North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz, Mexico

June 21, 2004 poster presentation: “**For the Birds: an inquiry theme for the urban classroom,**” K Belinsky, “Sharing Our Success”, Science in the Urban Classroom Conference, Department of Education, New York University, New York, NY

November 2, 2003 workshop: “**Birds and Bugs in (and out) of the classroom: connecting children and nature through Inquiry,**” K. Belinsky, T Rumpalik, and K Johnson. Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) annual conference, Worcester, MA.