

*The Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management is pleased to announce this week's seminar speaker:*

# **Dr. Benjamin Zuckerberg**

Professor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Seeking Safe Havens: How Grassland  
Birds Can Persist in a Warming World**

Friday, May 1, 2026  
Science Hall II, Room 220 & via Webex  
3:10 pm – 4:00 pm

### ***Seminar Description:***

Grassland birds are currently among the most threatened bird groups in North America, facing the dual pressures of habitat loss and a rapidly changing climate. In this seminar, Dr. Benjamin Zuckerberg will discuss the unique vulnerabilities of these species and the urgent need for innovative conservation strategies. The presentation will focus on the concept of climate-change refugia – areas that remain relatively buffered from climate extremes, and why identifying these "safe havens" at multiple spatial scales is critical for long-term population persistence. From micro-climates to broad landscape initiatives, Dr. Zuckerberg will explore how we can prioritize and create resilient habitats to ensure grassland birds have a future in a warming world.

### ***Speaker Background:***

Dr. Benjamin Zuckerberg is a Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A leading expert in climate change ecology, his research focuses on how birds and mammals respond to environmental change and how this knowledge can be used to inform conservation actions on the ground. Dr. Zuckerberg's work often spans geographic scales, using citizen science data, satellite imaging, and advanced modeling to track shifts in species distributions and phenology. He is a prominent advocate for the "refugia" approach to conservation, moving beyond simply protecting habitat to identifying landscapes that are functionally resilient to a changing climate. He earned his Ph.D. from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and has authored numerous papers on the intersection of avian ecology and global change.