The Scrambled Natural World of Global Warming







Left to right: Cornell ornithologist Michael Webster, USGS aquatic ecologist James Cloern '76 PhD, retired U.S. Forest Service entomologist Jesse Logan '77 PhD, WSU disease ecologist Jesse Brunner.

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More is known about the black-throated blue warblers of New Hampshire's Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest than just about any other breeding population. With climate conditions changing, Michael Webster and his colleagues saw a chance to ask, "Is this good or bad for the birds?"

Jesse Logan predicted warming temperatures would let the mountain pine beetle attack the whitebark pines of Yellowstone, then watched it happen.

James Cloern led a climate study of San Francisco Bay that anticipated a shrinking water supply, wetter winters and drier summers, rising sea levels, and "reduced habitat quality for native aquatic species."



Jesse Brunner is studying the effect of a changing climate on blacklegged ticks and the Lyme disease-inducing bacterium they carry. For now, he says, "We don't know which one is going to end up winning the temperature race."

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