Dear Selma Herr family,

The research funded by your generous gift is the central experimental chapter of my dissertation. In this chapter, I will explore the mechanisms underlying why nest success of birds during heat waves is lowest in agriculture. Our analysis is in the beginning stages, but so far, we have demonstrated that nests in more open land covers (such as grassland and row crops) have higher internal temperatures than those in more closed land covers. These results will point to concrete conservation interventions that may increase resilience of bird populations living in multi-functional landscapes such as working landscapes.

In addition, the scientific infrastructure funded by your support is benefiting not just my own research, but the research of other young scientists involved in Dr. Karp’s lab at UC Davis, including two undergraduate students this year. They will receive mentoring in proposal writing, analysis, and bird handling that will help prepare them for a career in wildlife research.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Katherine Lauck

PhD student, Dept WFCB, UCD

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