**Early Professional Mini-Talk Symposium and Social**

The Early Professionals Committee is hosting the 4th Annual EARLY PROFESSIONALS MINI-TALK SYMPOSIUM AND EARLY PROFESSIONALS SOCIAL designed to highlight the exciting research performed by professionals in the beginning stages of their careers (i.e., those who are no longer students but still in the early stages of their careers). This is a lively and fast-paced event, which has become increasingly popular. Unlike the lightning talks in previous years, we have changed the format to a “3-minute thesis”-type presentation. Participants are limited to one slide consisting of one image and a “tweet” style statement summarizing them and their research (i.e. no more than 140 characters). We will also leave ~2 minutes for one question. The image can be a photo, figure, or piece of art. The idea here is to make the Ornithologist the focus. What are they passionate about, what makes them tick as a scientist, how did they get where they are, and where are they headed? Following the talks there will be an Early Professional Social, a chance to meet with the participants and other early career and senior ornithologists (registration required).

To give all attendees the opportunity to learn about these early career researchers, the symposium is a stand-alone event, which takes place on **Wednesday, August 2, at 4 pm**. Please join us in Brody 134-138 for the symposium and then in the Big Ten A room for the reception that follows.

Organizers: Sara Kaiser, Smithsonian Institution; Chris Tonra, The Ohio State University; Emma Grieg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; and Scott Taylor, University of Colorado, Boulder

Moderator: Chris Tonra

This year’s symposium:

Introduction: Sara Kaiser, Chris Tonra, Emma Grieg, and Scott Taylor

Kristern Covino, Canisius College

Allison Johnson, University of Chicago

Michael Hallworth, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute - Migratory Bird Center

Erica Stuber, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Rachel Sturge, niversity of Toronto, Scarborough

Auriel Fournier, Mississippi State University

Christine Magliger, University of Windsor

Natalie Wright, University of Montana

Nicholas Mason, Cornell University

Elizabeth Derryberry (closing remarks/reflections)

Sara Kaiser (Early Professional Social)