Title: The Avian Microbiome

Organizer: Sarah Hird, University of Connecticut; (860)486-6299; [sarah.hird@uconn.edu](mailto:sarah.hird@uconn.edu)

Description: The microbiome (or all the microbes living in a particular place) is a dynamic and important aspect of avian biology. Recent research, facilitated by quickly advancing methodologies, is revealing the myriad ways the microbiome affects host health, wellness and fitness. Unfortunately, ~90% of published microbiome research has been conducted on mammals, which are fundamentally different from birds in many ways that directly affect the microbiome. The unique attributes of Aves make them particularly fascinating microbial hosts. To really understand the evolution and biology of birds, we must incorporate microbiome research into our studies. The purpose of this roundtable is to discuss ongoing or potential microbiome projects, methodological concerns and future plans for collecting and comparing microbiome data in wild birds.