

Dustin Reichard from the Ketterson Lab (Biology) at IU will present some of his research at the Monroe County Public Library Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 25, at the Sassafras Audubon Society monthly meeting/presentation.

**Whispers, Deception, and Promiscuity: Decoding the hidden vocal repertoire of the Dark-eyed Junco**

Songbirds are often lauded for their loud, melodious songs that herald the return of spring and a readiness to find a mate and defend a territory. In addition to those conspicuous, long-range songs, many songbirds also sing a separate repertoire of songs at a very low volume, similar to a whisper. These whispers, or short-range songs are difficult to observe, but they can be extraordinarily complex and paired with intense bouts of aggression or courtship behavior. In this talk, Reichard will introduce the audience to these hidden vocalizations in a common backyard bird, the Dark-eyed Junco, using videos and recordings collected in the field. Additionally, he'll present some of his dissertation research aimed at answering the question: Why sing softly?