

Winging it alone: The effects of single parenthood on single parents



April Booth
Friday, February 28, 2020
3:00 – 4:00 PM
Music, room 160

For further information: www.csufresno.edu/biology

Presentation: Across the animal kingdom, it is pretty widely recognized that being a parent can be stressful. However, in situations where there are normally two parents caring for the offspring, what happens when one of the partners are lost from something like disease or predation? There has been a substantial amount of work studying single parenthood or increased parental load and its adverse effects on the offspring, but there is a gap in the knowledge of how single parenthood affects single parent biology. I use the biparental and monogamous pigeon (*Columba livia*) as a model system to better understand what changes may be occurring in single parents as compared to paired parents in terms of neurobiology, physiology, and behavior. I will talk about what changes I have found in gene expression in the hypothalamus, circulating hormones, and parental behavior. Understanding what effects may be happening in single parents could better inform why adverse effects are observed in the offspring. I will also take a little time at the end of my presentation to talk about how I hope to apply my training as a scientist to science policy after I graduate for the undergraduate and graduate students attending.

About the speaker: April Booth is a PhD Candidate at University of California, Davis. She obtained her B.S. in Biology and B.A. in Chemistry, as well as her M.S. in Biology at Fresno State. She is a neurobiologist and a physiologist. Californian. She credits the movie Jurassic Park for her venture into herpetological research.