

# Lunch with a Scientist 2020

Join life-long learners for a monthly lunch and learn series at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Bring your own lunch and hunger for knowledge, we will provide the brain food! If weather permits, we will go outside to see the research and education in action. Please wear closed-toe shoes and dress for the weather.

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**May 12, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Elena West, PhD: Red-headed Woodpeckers**

This session will be hosted by Dr. Elena West, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Minnesota. The Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, is a medium-sized woodpecker that was once abundant across southern Canada and the eastern-central United States. Populations have declined dramatically over the last 50 years due to habitat loss and degradation, especially of the species' preferred oak savanna habitat. Dr. West will discuss her research on Red-headed Woodpeckers, and ongoing efforts to restore habitat for this species and other oak savanna specialists.

Dr. Elena West is an avian ecologist and conservation biologist with broad research interests in animal foraging and movement behavior, and quantitative wildlife population ecology. Dr. West began work with the RHWO in 2017 and is currently examining the annual cycle demography, habitat associations, and migration ecology of red-headed woodpeckers.

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To learn more: [cedarcreek.umn.edu/LWAS](https://cedarcreek.umn.edu/LWAS)  
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