
E. Lucy Braun Award
Phoebe L. Zarnetske
Utah State University

E. Lucy Braun was an eminent plant ecologist and the first woman president of the Ecological Society of America. Besides describing and mapping the deciduous forest regions of eastern North America, Lucy Braun served as a dedicated teacher and role model to her students. To honor her, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding poster presentation at the Society's annual meeting.

The 2005 winner of the **E. Lucy Braun Award** is Phoebe L. Zarnetske for her poster “**Modeling Forest Bird Species’ Habitat with Extant Presence Points and Generated Pseudo-Absence Points in Utah.**” This work is based on Phoebe’s Master’s research at Utah State University under the supervision of Thomas Edwards of the USGS Utah Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Judges commented that Phoebe’s poster represented a great deal of work on a statistically complex problem; the modeling approach that Phoebe used allowed her to use existing data to extrapolate and generate usable conclusions of direct use to the U.S. Forest Service. Judges who interacted with Phoebe claimed that she provided clear responses to questions that demonstrated her familiarity with the model she developed, and also her awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches she used in this study. The goal of the project was to model the habitat of management indicator species and estimate their likelihood of occurrence across an extensive landscape. The regression model that Phoebe described used known presence data and generated pseudo-absence points for two bird species. Phoebe concluded that regression models like hers, based on presence and pseudo-absence data, could be powerful tools in habitat modeling and in conservation of species. Phoebe received her B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science from Colby College, Waterville, Maine in 2001.

