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Acoustic fingerprints on the wing

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Imagine



That!

The University of Montana - Missoula

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Feb. 3, 1995

Program Notes

Acoustic Fingerprints on the Wing

(Imagine That! Greene—airs Sunday, Feb. 12, 1995, at 9 p.m.)

Bird aficionados may know the songs of their favorite bird species, but UM biologist Erick Greene can go one step further. Greene discusses how he's learned to recognize the sounds of individual lazuli buntings, tiny blue songbirds common throughout the West, on *Imagine That!* The program airs Sunday, Feb. 12, at 9 p.m. on KUFM/KGPR Radio, immediately following the St. Louis Symphony.

Greene uses computer technology to analyze the unique songs of male birds, finding differences among individuals that the unaided human ear would be hard pressed to recognize. "Our ability to process sound information is really lousy compared to birds and other animals," he says.

Greene holds a doctorate and a master's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in biology and statistics from Dalhousie University. He joined UM in 1990 where he's an assistant professor in wildlife biology.

Imagine That! is produced as a joint venture between The University of Montana-Missoula and Montana State University-Bozeman. For more information, call Lilly Tuholske, University Communications research news editor, 243-2522.



The University of
Montana