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CANOPY WALKWAYS—TECHNIQUES FOR THEIR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

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Walkways offer a permanent and relatively expensive method of access to forest canopies for long term and collaborative biological studies. A new concept in walkway construction was designed for a temperate maple-beech forest in Massachusetts. The design utilizes two modules (a bridge and a platform) that can be reiterated in a number of patterns to suit different sites and budgets. The details of walkway construction and hardware have been quantified (Lowman and Bouricius, unpublished), and a prototype walk-

way is available for inspection in Williamstown, Massachusetts. At this site, we have been involved with students in studies of arboreal mammals, seasonal variation in forest insect populations, and defoliation of oak trees by gypsy moths.

Other walkways in various stages of progress by us exist at Millbrook School (NY), Hampshire College (MA), and Blue Creek (Belize, Central America).