



Seventh Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Seminar

Dr. Scott V. Edwards

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& Evolutionary Biology
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Member of the National Academy
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 12:20PM
THE BIOCOMPLEXITY INSTITUTE AUDITORIUM

GENES OR GENE REGULATION? UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLUTIONARY GENETICS OF FLIGHTLESSNESS IN BIRDS

Dr. Scott Edwards is a distinguished scientist at Harvard University. He received his B.A. from Harvard, his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and his postdoctoral training at the University of Florida. Dr. Edwards' research program uses interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate field, museum, and population genetic studies to understand the basis of avian diversity. He has published scientific articles in fields ranging from evolution, ecology, behavior, population genetics, and molecular genetics. In addition, he has written numerous articles for general audiences. His work has attracted major funding support from NSF throughout his career. Dr. Edwards has been very active in student mentoring and education, received numerous grants for student diversity, mentoring, and conference/workshop activities. Among his many awards in recognition of his scientific work and educational activities, he has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences and named Fellow of both the American Association of Science and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Balenger SL, Bonneaud C, Sefick SA, Edwards SV, Hill GE. 2015. Plumage color and pathogen-induced gene expression in a wild bird. *Behavioral Ecology*. 26:1100-1110.

Lowe CB, Clarke JA, Baker AJ, Haussler D, Edwards SV. 2015. Feather Development Genes and Associated Regulatory Innovation Predate the Origin of Dinosauria. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. 32:23-28.

Campbell-Staton SC, Cheviron ZA, Rochete N, Catchen J, Losos JB, Edwards SV. 2017. Winter storms drive rapid phenotypic, regulatory, and genomic shifts in the green anole lizard. *Science* 357:495-498.

Backstroem N, Shipilina D, Blom MPK, Edwards SV. 2013. Cis-regulatory sequence variation and association with *Mycoplasma* load in natural populations of the house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). *Ecology and Evolution*. 3:655-666.

Backstroem N, Zhang Q, Edwards SV. 2013. Evidence from a House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) Spleen Transcriptome for Adaptive Evolution and Biased Gene Conversion in Passerine Birds. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. 30:1046-1050.

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the Department of Biological Sciences, the College of Science Diversity Committee, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series, the Center for Global Change, the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, the VT Life Sciences Seminar, and the Ecology/Evolution/Behavior Seminar.

HOST: BIOLOGY DIVERSITY COMMITTEE, DR. FLORIAN SCHUBOT (CHAIR)