

The significance of evolutionary research for biodiversity conservation

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The Planet is heading toward a crisis which is largely caused by humans. To secure the future of the Planet, evolutionary understanding of animals, plants and microbes is essential. I will illustrate how my research on breeding ecology of birds lead into new insights about natural selection, sexual selection and social behaviour. Importantly, these works fed into understanding biodiversity, and lead to conservation actions that benefit wildlife. The take home message is that researching fundamental evolutionary topics can make direct and measurable impact on nature by saving species, habitats and ecosystems by involving local communities.